

Calm Lithuania awaits fate

Landsbergis plea to West for support

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Peter Stothard, Washington, and Michael Knipe

AS MOSCOW'S deadline for Lithuania to repeal its new laws or face economic sanctions expired yesterday President Landsbergis, head of the rebel republic, appealed to Britain, the European Community and the United Nations for help.

His plea came as the US Government was preparing new options for retaliation against Moscow if the threatened economic blockade goes ahead.

When President Bush returns to the White House this morning after his meeting with Mrs Thatcher, he will be given a list of suggestions by top officials at the Department of State and Defence, the National Security Council and the CIA.

In the only official Soviet comment on the dispute yesterday, *Pravda* called for a balanced handling of the crisis in both Washington and Moscow, noting that it could affect overall relations in the run-up to the summit. The Communist Party paper warned other countries not to interfere.

Lithuanians, meanwhile, celebrated Easter with an ostentatious lack of concern at the passing of Moscow's deadline. Members of the Lithuanian government had announced that they would not let Soviet pressure interfere with the holiday. Churches in the predominantly Roman Catholic republic were packed.

As Moscow faced growing pressure over Lithuania, fresh violence flared up in Armenia. An Armenian nationalist was killed when a bomb he was carrying exploded and demonstrators tried to storm KGB headquarters in Yerevan. Several were arrested.

A political commentator for *Pravda*, while praising President Bush for standing up to right-wing pressure for recognition of Lithuanian independence, said the crisis should not become a new barrier between the two countries at a time when overall relations were good. The harsher rhetoric between Washington and Moscow "does not signify a return to the Cold War".

The tone of the *Pravda* commentary was restrained, and reflects the keen interest in Moscow in not letting the crisis derail the summit.

Since Friday's ultimatum to Lithuania, there has been no further word in Moscow on what goods might be held up or when such an embargo would begin.

Indeed, President Gorbachev said he hoped that economic measures could be avoided but his message to the Lithuanian parliament and government left him little room for manoeuvre.

Referring to laws passed since the declaration of independence, President Gorbachev said: "If the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers do not rescind the above decisions, within the next two days, instructions will be given to stop supplies to Lithuania from other constituent republics of those categories of products that are sold on external markets for freely convertible currency."

However Tass quoted President Landsbergis as saying that the deadline's time-scale was impossible to comply with because of the Easter holiday. The official news agency said Lithuania would probably respond to the ultimatum tomorrow.

Despite the ambiguity of the deadline due to Easter, Moscow was thought unlikely to halt supplies of goods before today at the earliest.

For its part, the US Government's retaliatory measures are likely to include the postponement of some inter-governmental contacts, the slowing of US aid to the Soviet economy and the slackening of US support for Soviet entry

into international financial institutions. But these low-level responses to the "turn-off-the-lights" threat, prepared by the White House crisis management team before the news of President Gorbachev's ultimatum to the Lithuanians, may be enhanced by further, more serious, measures.

Mr Bush received his first full intelligence assessment of the issue only just before he left Bermuda. The Administration's official position is still to try to play down the crisis. "It's a threat but only a threat," said Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, "and it remains to be seen if it is carried out."

But he added that "clearly the American people would never understand if the Lithuanian people were deprived of basic necessities".

Officials made clear that the US had anticipated the possibility of a blockade. The crisis management team that has been considering the prospects is the so-called Deputies Group, made up of the deputy heads of the main intelligence and foreign affairs departments. It was established after the much-criticized failure to anticipate and react quickly to an earlier failed coup attempt against General Noriega in Panama last year.

Officials said the White House wanted to avoid cancelling next month's summit if possible. To do so would be a big blow to US wishes both to reduce defence spending and to capitalize on what it sees as significant progress in reducing superpower tensions.

But the US intelligence community is also beginning to see the Soviet's economic need for an arms reduction summit as increasing by the day. Evidence is presented in the form of unusual Soviet delays in paying for more than \$500 million (£305 million) of US grain and the refusal of certain large grain suppliers to continue supplies until they are paid.

The President will be cautious about any more than symbolic retaliation. But a significant body of inside opinion believes that Mr Bush is in a position to play tough with Mr Gorbachev, if he chooses to do so.

Economic threat, page 9
Gorbachev's advice, page 12
Moscow's Easter, page 22

Richards awaits verdict as West Indies race on

From Alan Lee, Antigua

WEST Indies maintained control of the decisive final Test Match against England in Antigua yesterday, while their captain, Vivian Richards, awaited the official verdict on possible disciplinary proceedings against him.

Richards is the subject of an inquiry by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control after absenting himself from the field on Saturday morning to pursue a dispute with an English journalist. No decision on his future is expected until the match ends.

Although he made only one run himself, as three wickets

fell in nine balls just before tea, Richards could still lead his side to victory in this match, and win the series 2-1, following a record first wicket stand of 298 between Greenidge and Haynes.

West Indies lost three wickets in the space of nine balls during the afternoon. England's second success came at 357, when Richardson was caught off Malcolm for 34. Hooper followed in the next over, bowled for one by Capel. After Richards went West Indies were 359-4.

Match report, page 34

All quiet under April showers

By David Sapsed

AN APRIL weather cocktail of sun, showers and a keen wind produced an Easter Sunday of deserted motorways, quiet resorts and gum ice-cream salesmen.

With the Meteorological Office predicting little change, there were hopes that the return rush towards London today would be avoided with many deciding to head for home early. "After the initial problems, it has been a quiet Easter virtually everywhere," the AA said.

Even those who decided to leave it all behind by flying abroad met few delays.

Although most seaside resorts offered no appeal in the showers and low temperatures, theme parks and zoos attracted sizeable crowds.

Resorts in the North-east, however, fared much better with a sunny weekend. At Bridlington, about 100,000 visitors poured into the town and many plucked up the courage to go into the sea.

Meanwhile, tourists to Sandringham House found the gates locked yesterday. It will not open until April 29 because of preparations for a week's holiday by the Prince of Wales there, which begins tomorrow.

Weather forecasts, page 22

Early Nato summit poses problem

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

PLANS nurtured by Mrs Thatcher and President Bush at their Bermuda talks for an early Nato summit to resolve the future of short-range nuclear weapons and to discuss the future architecture of the 16-nation alliance are running into difficulties.

It was initially hoped that

the Nato foreign ministers' meeting at Turnberry, Scotland, early in June could have been turned into a full Nato summit. But the administrative problems proved too difficult to overcome in such a short period and there is some difficulty in accommodating the meeting in a crowded schedule this summer.

Mr Bush receives President Gorbachev in Washington at

the end of May and the G7 summit of the leading Western industrial nations is fixed for July. But Britain and America are keen for a meeting nonetheless within the next few months. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush have agreed to push their major allies for an early Nato summit to tackle the uncertainty on short-range nuclear weapons and any replacement for

them, the disposition of troop cuts and the scope for further cutbacks in nuclear armaments.

Officials said that the Bush-Thatcher talks in Bermuda had "cleared their minds" about where the two administrations wanted to go on the

Continued on page 22, col 1

Thatcher's luck, page 8
Leading article, page 13

Kinnock attack as Tories slide

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Labour Party is planning to inject a new bitterness into the political debate this week by launching a local government election campaign accusing the Government of betraying its own supporters.

As it prepares to do so, the latest MORI opinion poll records dissatisfaction with the Government at a record high.

The three-month aggregate poll, one of the most comprehensive tests on the polling scene, confirms that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is the most unpopular Prime Minister.

If the latest opinion polls are reflected in the voting on May 3, the Conservative Party could be reduced to its lowest level of council representation in living memory.

On Wednesday Mr Neil Kinnock, together with Dr

Jack Cunningham, his campaign director, and Mr Bryan Gould, environment spokesman, will launch a local government election campaign to persuade former Tories that they have been sold out by the party which claims to represent their interests.

The theme of recent party political broadcasts will be developed to present Labour as "the party that can" and the Conservatives as "the party that con".

Ministers are planning to respond swiftly by attacking Labour's record of high-spending both in national and local administrations and by criticising the party's delay in dissociating itself from the Militant-linked All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

Poll details, page 6

Battle lines drawn for 'super gun' great debate

By David Sapsed



Mr Kaufman: To ask for a government statement

THE battle lines were drawn yesterday for the great debate over whether the eight sections of steel pipe seized at Teesport, Middlesbrough, were for a satellite-launching gun or simply part of a consignment for a petrochemical plant in Iraq.

In one corner was HM Customs and Excise, backed by Ministry of Defence experts, insisting that the consignment was intended for military use. In the other was the Sheffield manufacturer of the piping, with covert backing from Department of Trade and Industry officials, equally determined to dismiss the episode as a farce.

Somewhere in the middle was a referee in the shape of the Prime Minister ("It is a pretty good rule first to find the facts before you make any further comment") while the spectators,

the Labour Party, voiced their determination to find out exactly what is probably what. Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Foreign Secretary, who said the Government must come clean on the issue, will demand a statement from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, when Parliament resumes this week.

Continuing off-stage was the battle of the leaks, the latest of which was one from Customs suggesting that the "gun" was not a gun at all but something to put rockets or spy satellites into orbit.

That appeared to be a direct response to an earlier weekend leak, which the DTI yesterday strongly denied making, dismissing the consignment of eight steel tubes as "probably only a pipe".

Customs believe departmental officials are making such noises to avoid getting egg on their faces for approving the export order in the first place.

However, weighing in yesterday on

the side of the foul-up theory were the makers, Forgemasters, of Sheffield. A spokesman insisted that the firm had done no more than supply steel tubes for a "petrochemicals application".

Mr Tony Peck said: "Nobody seems to have taken on board the fact that those eight pieces do not join up to form one piece. They are random selections of tubes from a consignment of 26 which, added together, measure 156 metres. They cannot join them together and they know it."

Meanwhile, Customs investigators are looking at links between the cylinders and research carried out by the Canadian weapons scientist Dr Gerald Bull, shot dead in Brussels last month. Customs officials have said that his company, the Space Research Corporation, was involved in negotiations to buy the pipes.

Plans for unity, page 11

Surprise FO guests attend reception for Mandela

By Tom Giles and Michael Knipe

TWO Foreign Office officials unexpectedly attended a reception for Mr Nelson Mandela, hosted by Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General last night, marking the African National Congress leader's first, and almost certainly only, contact with the Government during his two-day London visit.

Mr Roger Tomkis, a deputy Under-Secretary and Mr Richard Bales, the head of the Southern Africa department, were invited by Mr Ramphal, along with a wide range of people who, according to a Commonwealth source, were "committed to the anti-apartheid cause".

The guest list had been drawn up by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, the indefatigable anti-apartheid campaigner and associate of Mr Mandela in South Africa before he was imprisoned.

It was Archbishop Huddleston who convened the Nelson Mandela international reception committee which conceived the idea of marking the ANC leader's release from prison with tomorrow's pop concert at Wembley stadium.

The concert follows a pattern of pop-and-politics events which has been a feature of the international anti-apartheid campaign.

It has, however, drawn criticism from people opposed to pop music being used to spread a political message via television and radio. Others believe such events distract Mr Mandela from issues in South Africa.

After landing at Heathrow on Easter morning with his wife, Winnie, and a delegation of ANC officials, the ANC leader said it was "an honour and a pleasure" to be on British soil. At a brief press conference, he said: "We have always looked forward to this

occasion when we can thank the British people for the support for which they have given us in the course of our anti-apartheid struggle."

The arrival was slightly marred by Mr Mandela's admission on Saturday that the ANC's military wing had been responsible for torturing dissident members. At a 30-minute meeting with European Community leaders at Jan Smuts airport in Johannesburg, he acknowledged that five ANC members critical of the organization's military leadership had been tortured and harassed.

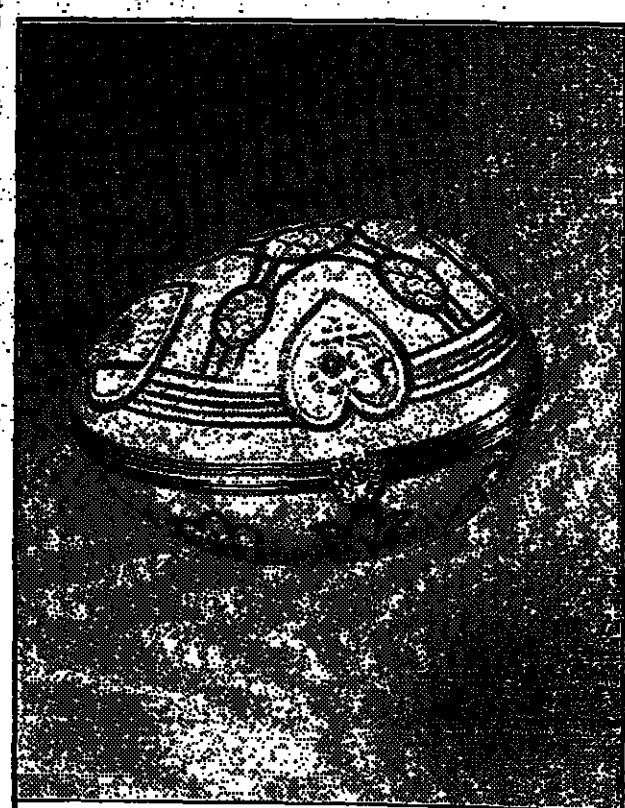
He continued: "Once we discovered that malpractices were going on... we took immediate steps and made sure that these things do not happen again." The head of the EC delegation, Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, said later he believed the ANC had dealt with the torture incident swiftly and effectively.

Despite substantial security at Heathrow, the 71-year-old ANC leader left swiftly with his party for his hotel in central London looking slightly jaded after his 14-hour flight.

Mr Mandela had a private meeting with Archbishop Huddleston before addressing a meeting of 250 delegates from international anti-apartheid groups which included Mr Bernie Grant, the Labour MP, and the Rev Jesse Jackson, the US politician.

Only *Daily Mirror* journalists were allowed unhindered access to Mr Mandela, a concession granted after the financial backing provided towards the concert visit by *Mirror* Group Newspapers and its proprietor, Mr Robert Maxwell.

Leading article, page 13



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Ford gives its staff £300 vouchers to boost car sales

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

NEARLY 40,000 Ford workers have been given a £300 voucher towards buying one of the company's cars as the battle for sales in the declining British market intensifies.

The vouchers, together with special employee discounts, mean the workforce, employed in 21 plants throughout Britain, could save up to £2,000 on a Ford Escort straight from the factory.

The move comes as Ford is struggling to rebuild its lead as Britain's biggest car company, but facing a market depressed

by high interest rates, rising mortgage repayments and poll tax charges.

Sales of new cars are down by almost 8 per cent this year but Ford's leadership has slipped from a 27.6 per cent market share in the first quarter of 1989 to 24 per cent so far in 1990.

The company is under pressure, particularly from Vauxhall, whose Cavalier has moved ahead of the Sierra to first place in the sales league table for the first quarter. Vauxhall's market share has

also increased from 14.98 per cent to more than 17 per cent.

The main manufacturers are engaged in a fierce round of price-cutting and incentive schemes to capture sales at a time when the industry expects a total market decline this year of about 10 per cent below 1989's record 2.22 million.

Dealers are being told to slash prices by £1,000 or more from the sticker price of some models to keep cars flowing out of the showrooms.

Nissan raised the stakes in the sales war last week by announcing it was cutting the price of its British-built Bluebird saloons and hatchbacks by almost £1,000.

That makes the base Bluebird model up to £1,600 cheaper than its main competitors in the highly competitive sector for mid-range cars, such as the Vauxhall Cavalier, Ford Sierra and Peugeot 405.

Nissan has moved because its Bluebird has been unable to penetrate Ford and Vauxhall's market supremacy, despite the fact that the model is manufactured in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

It is against that background that Ford launched its £300 voucher scheme to exploit its biggest pool of captive customers — its own workforce.

Ford said last night that the voucher deals, which could cost the company up to £12 million, would be offered to help to clear stocks, which include models such as older-engined 1.3 Escorts. They are understood to be not selling as well as the newer 1.4-litre models.

The incentive is seen as one of the most radical in the motor industry with workers already able to claim employee discounts on the cars they manufacture of between 17 and 22 per cent.

With the discount and £300 voucher, a Ford employee could buy a three-door Escort 1.3L, normally priced in the showrooms at £7,545, for less than £5,600.

The scheme is launched as Ford's 32,000 manual workers start to enjoy one of the best pay packages negotiated in manufacturing.

Battle to rein in a growing perk

By Our Motoring Correspondent

THE spread of the company car as a salary perk has worried the Government, which has stepped up its efforts to raise taxation for recipients.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, put up scale charges by 20 per cent in the last Budget.

However, as taxes go up, demand for company cars also rises, according to Cowie Interleasing, Britain's largest leasing firm with more than 53,000 cars on the roads.

While tax on the personal benefit of a car has been raised on average from about £1,100 to £2,500 in two years, the number of vehicles in fleets of 25 and over has soared from 450,000 in 1985 to almost 700,000.

At a time when wage inflation is a big concern and the best skilled employees are in short supply, Cowie Interleasing says companies still believe that the company car is the best perk available.

Mr Neil Pykett, the firm's managing director, said he has dealt with one company where all 800 employees have a company car.

In his own business, even the switchboard supervisor and two secretaries are supplied with company cars to prevent them from moving to other businesses. Mr Pykett added: "It is now very difficult

to recruit and keep the best people. Whatever the Government has done to personal taxation, there is still a huge demand for company cars."

Manufacturers were worried that increases in taxation would eventually persuade employees to change the company car for their own vehicles.

That would, they said, have the effect of forcing companies to pay out compensatory salary rises to employees and would mean disaster for the motor manufacturers as employees buying their own cars would either buy second-hand or smaller vehicles.

However, the demand for company cars — greater in Britain than anywhere else in the world — shows no signs slackening. That may be to the advantage of British manufacturers, for many companies still operate a "Buy British" policy.

Mr Pykett added: "The perception that the growth of fleets was ending shows no signs at all. Instead, people want more cars. They may not buy them themselves, but their companies will be forced to provide to keep good people."

"That is good for the motor manufacturers and for employees who do not have to face the expense and worry of maintaining their own cars."

Ostrich bonnets for the Easter parade



Members of a Belgian folk dance troupe preparing to lead the Easter parade at Battersea Park, south-west London, yesterday, wearing hats each of which is made from up to 300 hand-dyed ostrich feathers

Family of 10 flees blaze at home

A FAMILY of 10 was rescued by neighbours and emergency services yesterday when a fire swept through their home within minutes.

Mr Alan Hutchman and his wife Loraine — together with their six children and grandparents, Mr Eddie Hutchman and Mrs Joan McDermott — were asleep in the house in Bann Drive, Londonderry, when the fire broke out.

Mr George Peoples, an ambulance driver, saw the fire on his way to work. He alerted emergency services before helping with the rescue as a neighbour, Mr Billy Reid, used a ladder to drag the family from an upstairs window.

Monet tickets

The Royal Academy of Arts, in London is to sell advance tickets for an exhibition of the work of Claude Monet, the great French impressionist, to avoid visitors having to queue for admission. The exhibition, to open in September, is expected to attract 500,000 visitors.

Unmarked cars

Unmarked police cars have been introduced in Leicestershire to help to catch unruly motorists, yet the police force said it will also make sure that the vehicles are recognisable. They will have blue flashing lights, a "police stop" sign on the back, and an optional blue light for the roof.

Climber falls

A climber plunged 30ft down the Pear Tree face of Symonds Yat rock in the Wye Valley yesterday but suffered only a broken collar bone and an injured arm. Mr Ian Bird, aged 21, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, was climbing with a friend when equipment failure caused his fall.

Chess win nears

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian chess grandmaster, seems poised to win the Grandmaster Tournament at Frestwich, Anand, after a win against Schlosser of the US in round seven, has six points and only two more rounds to play. Michael Adams, aged 18, from Thurro is in second place.

Death of former minister

LORD Bruce-Gardyne, a former Conservative Treasury minister and a fierce advocate of monetarism, has died after a long illness, Downing Street said yesterday. He was 60.

Mrs Thatcher paid tribute to "a marvellous colleague, loyal but always retaining an independent mind" and "never afraid to challenge orthodoxy".

"Jock" Bruce-Gardyne retained cheerfulness and commitment to work — largely as a political and financial writer — even when he knew that death was imminent after brain surgery last year. He wrote about his illness and the prospect of death with wit and without self-pity. Recently, he said: "At least I've had time to put my affairs in order and I seem able to continue my life of crime."

Obituary, page 14

Haughey pressed on extradition law

MR CHARLES Haughey, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, is under renewed pressure to toughen up his country's extradition laws.

His coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, are to outline radical new proposals to change the laws if they inhibit effective extradition.

In Belfast last week Mr Haughey promised to look at the legislation. The IRA rallied its supporters with a sabre-rattling message at its annual Easter parade yesterday but tempered it with a renewed offer of peace talks.

The message was read out at the Republican plot at Milltown cemetery, west Belfast.

It said: "While Britain remains in Ireland, its troops and policy-makers will not be safe." The message added, however, that the terrorist organization was prepared to talk without preconditions about how to achieve peace.

Mr Haughey meets Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London on Friday in preparation for a special EC summit meeting in

Prayer for an end to jail siege

A PRISON chaplain yesterday prayed for an end to the siege at Strangeways jail, Manchester, exactly two weeks after the rioting started at a chapel service there, during which he was hit in the face.

As about a dozen inmates continued their sit-in, the Rev Noel Proctor, still with a black eye, told an Easter service in the jail's prison officers' club that people should try to forget feelings of anger and rejection.

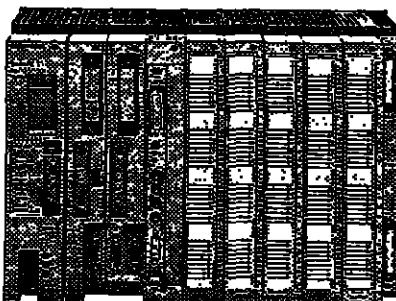
Police sirens continued to drown shouts from men on the jail roof as he told a congregation of 20, including two inmates and the prison governor, Mr Brendan O'Brien: "I pray that God will bring sense to them and bring them down."

Copycat jail riots are feared by prison officials in the Irish Republic. Leave has been cancelled for prison staff in Dublin and Cork.

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AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
Nelson Mandela, the African nationalist leader, will appear at a concert at Wembley Stadium, London. National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Bournemouth.

Tomorrow
Service at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, to mark fourth anniversary of the kidnapping of Mr John McCarthy, the British journalist held in Beirut; protest outside the Iranian embassy. The Prince and Princess of Wales attend *Hunt for the Red October* film premiere.

Wednesday
Inquests into deaths of 95 people who died in the Hillsborough football tragedy last year opens at the Memorial Hall in Sheffield. Friends of the Earth conference on a market for rain forest products.

Thursday
The Queen Mother attends a Golditz Association reunion at the Imperial War Museum. Mr Hugh Symonds, international fell-runner, starts attempt to climb all of Britain's peaks higher than 3,000ft. A number of lordships of the manor to be sold, including the Superiority of the North Cruden Bay, ancestral Scottish home of the Murdoch family.

Friday
The Irish Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, will meet Mrs Margaret Thatcher. British Geological Survey to present initial findings on the recent British earth tremor. The Queen is to help in the appeal to restore Gloucester Cathedral.

Saturday
Conservative trade unionists hold annual conference in London and EC foreign ministers meet in Dublin for informal discussions on world affairs.

Sunday
The London marathon gets under way. The Cornish County Spring Flower Show opens in Lanhedock.

National Curriculum rules may be relaxed

By David Tytler, Education Editor

FURTHER relaxations in teaching of the National Curriculum, the main plank in education reforms, are likely following Mrs Thatcher's public questioning of whether the Government was "doing it right".

The Prime Minister made it clear that she believed the reforms had gone too far and would discourage good teaching. She said: "I do not think I ever thought they would do the syllabus in such detail. I believe there are thousands of teachers who are teaching extremely well."

"I always felt that when we had done the core curriculum, the core syllabus, there must always be scope for each teacher to use her own methods, her own experience, the things which she has learned and he or she really knows how to teach." In an interview

with the *Sunday Telegraph* the Prime Minister said there was a danger that a too tightly-drawn curriculum would "lose the enthusiasm and the devotion and all of the extras that a really good teacher can give out of her own experience".

She said: "Once you put out an approved curriculum, if you have got it wrong, the situation is worse afterwards than it was before."

"At any given time a large number of teachers are teaching a subject extremely well. But if you take them off what they know has worked for years, far better than anyone else's syllabus, then you wonder, were you doing it right?"

Statutory lessons in English, mathematics and science have been introduced in primary schools.

The full range of 10 subjects — including technology, history, geography, modern languages, art, music and physical education — will be introduced in all schools within the next three years.

Mrs Thatcher said she still believed it was important to test children from the age of seven in mathematics, English and science. Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that there will no longer be statutory testing of other subjects at ages seven and 11.

Both Downing Street and the Department of Education and Science denied yesterday that Mrs Thatcher's remarks revealed a split with Mr MacGregor.

He said yesterday: "I came to the view that it was unrealistic and unworkable to have statutory testing in all subjects. I took the view that there was too heavy a burden on teachers. I always talk to the troops before making decisions."

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said at the union's annual conference in Bournemouth yesterday: "The issues raised by the Prime Minister are too important to be ignored any longer."

Mr McAvoy said that in particular she should challenge Mr Kenneth Baker the former education secretary and now chairman of the Conservative Party.

He said: "She should ask Kenneth Baker why he did not warn her clearly enough about the implications of a national curriculum that was laid down in such prescriptive and rigid terms."

Mrs Barbara Lloyd, the union's new president, said: "Already to make room for National Curriculum subjects other subjects have been cut out of the curriculum — and they will disappear despite all the assurances on flexibility and adequate time allowances."

Mr Derek Fatchett, a Labour front bench education spokesman, said: "Mrs Thatcher and Mr MacGregor have inflicted uncertainty on the schools and a burden of change on teachers that now seem to be against her wishes. Mrs Thatcher appears to be moving towards a slim-down curriculum but her secretary of state has not yet been told."

Education, page 19



The Clive-Ponsonby-Fane family relaxing after a day's work in their prize-winning garden, which was restored after a long period of neglect

Couple turn jungle into award-winning garden

The Garden of the Year award for 1989 has been given to Brynpton d'Evercy, near Yeovil, Somerset.

The 13th century house has been owned by the Clive-Ponsonby-Fane family since 1731. Charles and Judy Clive-Ponsonby-Fane live there now with their family.

The estate, which has nine acres of gardens and 30 acres of park, also boasts its own vineyard, producing 2,500 bottles of wine in a good year.

The garden is designed for low maintenance. Dense planting and

ground cover plants help to suppress weeds and foliage is as important as flowers in creating colour.

Mr Clive-Ponsonby-Fane, aged 48, who describes himself as a vigneron and distiller, also has the weighty responsibility of looking after the estate. "It was very surprising to hear that we had won this wonderful award," he said. "I am pleased for all the people who put so much hard work into the garden."

He said his wife Judith had designed it. "We have had some

tremendous help from a young girl called Debbie Stabbins who joined us five years ago on a young workers' scheme."

The award, which is given by the Historic Houses Association in conjunction with Christie's auctioneers, will be presented to the family on May 17.

In 1958 Brynpton d'Evercy was let as a boys' public school, but when Mr Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane married Judy in 1974, they took back the house for their own use. "It was a

rather sad and empty school when we came back. No garden, just a jungle and lawns up to the walls with no flower beds," Mr Clive-Ponsonby-Fane said.

"It has always been my hope that one day the family would return and that we could get the garden back to its former glory."

The garden is open to the public today, after which it will open again on May 1 for five months.

Text and photograph by Stephen Markeson

Walkout call over crowded classes

By Our Education Editor

TEACHERS throughout England and Wales were yesterday asked to strike in support of any teacher who walked out of lessons because class sizes were too large.

Miss Helen Price, from Leeds, told the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Bournemouth: "We want to know that if we want to walk out over class sizes the rest of the national union will come out too. We cannot take any more."

Miss Frances Roberts, from Bristol, was hissed by many of the 1,200 delegates when she said that the union would risk losing public support if it took strike action.

She said: "We have to remember that parents and the public approve of the National Curriculum."

The union was also asked to support members who refuse to teach certain parts of the curriculum.

Mr David Wahl, from Basingstoke, said the curriculum would in its present form increase divisions in race, class and gender.

He said that the Labour Party curriculum proposals were only a watered-down version of what is being done by the present government. "We have to fight for a National Curriculum we believe in. We have to fight for it in our schools and in our communities. We owe it to the children we teach and the educational service we work in."

Miss Carole Avery, a teacher in Tower Hamlets, east London, said: "The National Curriculum can turn into a nationalist curriculum. It does not reflect the multi-national basis of our society. It aims to control what is being taught and many of us already feel constrained to teach to the test."

Dr Alan Leach, a Hampshire headmaster and member of the union's national executive, said that teachers were legally required to teach the National Curriculum.

The only realistic action they could take was to ensure that it was modified to their requirements, he said.

● The union will decide later this week on what if any restrictions should be placed on its new political fund.

Executive status for the butler of today

HUDSON would not have been amused. Jeeves would have found the whole thing dashed odd.

In their day, a good butler was seen rather than heard, and upstairs and downstairs kept a respectable distance.

Not so today. The modern butler is likely to be a jockey, a karate expert, a homeowner and married. Worst of all, he may be a slob.

So says a survey of its pupils by the Ivor Spencer International School for Butler Administrators, in London, marking 10 years of training and supplying butlers for the rich throughout the world.

"Today's modern butler is often a jockey, and jogs before and after work, often with his boss; or like the company, and because the butler is trained in karate and able to protect his employers from a mugger," the survey says.

"Half of today's modern butlers are married and they usually own their own homes."

"Traditionally butlers are called by their surnames, but 75 per cent now are called by their first names."

The job brings a high reward. With living costs all met, a butler can save most of his salary. The school knows of one from London's east end who sent his sons to Eton.

Perhaps the biggest change is the type of person becoming butlers. The school has had four women students and one of its latest male recruits is a former Benedictine monk.

Mr Ivor Spencer, the school's founder, said: "We are not servants anymore, we are executives who do more than old-style butlers used to do. We travel, hire and pay staff and buy in food and wine."

Heseltine urges joining EMS in next 12 months

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday urged British membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System within the next 12 months, saying that he had been encouraged by recent pronouncements on the subject from Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Heseltine said that the importance of a membership application was the signal it gave that domestic policies would embrace "the disciplines of the Bundesbank".

Clearly encouraging ministers to chivy the Prime Minister, whose Cabinet he left over his style of government, Mr Heseltine said in the context of the ERM: "They're there to make collective judgements."

The former Secretary of State for Defence gave strong support to the Government's anti-inflation policies, saying that there was no alternative to high interest rates and predicting that the political climate would change as both interest rates and inflation fell at this time next year.

Mr Heseltine, who advised the Cabinet against the community charge in 1981, said however that he would be contributing to the debate which the Government now intended to encourage about its future shape.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World This Weekend*, he again said that he could not foresee the circumstances in which he would challenge Mrs Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative Party leadership. He again predicted that she would lead the party into the next election "and the Conservatives will win it".

He said that the "soft

option, drop-out" Labour Party was irrelevant to the needs of the 1990s, when Britain would have to fight off tougher overseas competition. Of his own position, Mr Heseltine said: "The danger is if I say anything and someone sees it as a deliberate attempt to attack — it never is, but it is easily portrayed in that sense."

"So I am deliberately careful to try avoiding giving any justification for that approach. But I have got ideas."

"The luxury of being on the back benches is that the party can disown you and your ideas if they don't like them; but every so often you score bulls-eyes."

Four days remain to choose environment award winner

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

FOUR days remain in which to vote for the winner of the £5,000 Environment Award sponsored by *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's evening news programme, *PM*.

Five candidates from Scotland to Somerset have been shortlisted for the prize, which will be presented at Broadcasting House in London on May 8 by Dr Richard Leakey, head of the Kenyan Wildlife Service.

Mr Ron Greer and the Loch Garry Tree Group have shown that broadleaved forest will grow freely in the Scottish Highlands, where it was the original covering.

Mr Bob Hopkins, a worker at the Conoco oil refinery at Immingham, Humberside, has created a woodland nature reserve in the refinery which is



used to great effect by local schools.

Members of the Kirkstall Valley Campaign have drawn up a development proposal for the valley of the River Aire where it enters Leeds, which is threatened with comprehensive redevelopment.

The Children of the Hall Group of Watch, the Junior Wildlife Club of the Royal

Society for Nature Conservation, are looking after Britain's largest colony of common frogs at Anlaby Common, outside Hull.

Miss Janet White, a sheep farmer in the Quantock hills of Somerset, is watching over a rich collection of wildlife, from ravens to dormice.

For voting the finalists are listed as: 1 Loch Garry; 2 Immingham; 3 Leeds; 4 Hull; 5 Quantocks.

To vote, write the number and name of one candidate only, thus: 2 Immingham, on a postcard. Each person may cast one vote and must send their full name and address to: *The Times/PM Environment Award*, 16 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 3NG.

Voting closes at first post this Friday, April 20.

Scots TUC to debate poll reform

By Kerry Gill

THE Scottish Trades Union Congress, which holds its annual conference in Glasgow this week, will be asked to back proportional representation for a Scottish Parliament.

Electoral and constitutional reform will be the subject of one of the biggest debates in the conference, as well as the question of fiscal powers for the proposed body.

After a meeting of the congress's general council yesterday, Mr Campbell Christie, the general secretary, said that it would back a call for equal representation of men and women in such an assembly.

On the raising of finance, Mr Christie said that since the late 1970s the council had supported the maintenance of a block grant and the ability of a parliament to raise personal income tax.

The congress has however also considered demanding a fixed proportion of all taxes raised by the Government to help finance a parliament — known as assigned revenues. Mr Christie said: "We

have been in discussion in the council over the assigned revenues idea which is that a Scottish Parliament should be entitled to a certain proportion of all taxation raised."

"It would be a right which could be topped up by negotiations on a block grant and further topped up by the ability of a Scottish Parliament to vary personal income tax."

The conference is also likely to back Scottish Parliamentary powers over education and training with funding from both the public and private sectors to meet future needs.

Such powers would include regulatory powers over public utilities, particularly postal services and telecommunications.

That would ensure an end to a policy of closing or privatizing local post offices and encourage increased customer services.

The community charge will be vigorously discussed and condemned. One composite motion declares that more than 500,000 people have not paid a

penny and many more are in arrears. Even those who have paid, it claims, have been reluctant to do so and up to 80 per cent of the Scottish population are against the tax.

The general council will be asked to organize improved opposition to the tax within the community and to ensure that no trade unionist is penalized by an employer for either being in arrears or refusing to be party to poll tax warrant sales.

● The health service union Cohse has protested to the Scottish Ambulance Service over its proposal to deduct holiday pay from ambulance men who took strike action during the recent dispute.

Mr Jim Devine, the union's Scottish regional officer, said yesterday that the move was not conducive to good industrial relations and meant that workers were being penalized for exercising their right to take industrial action.

The union is to raise the matter at the Scottish TUC conference.

Fifteen thousand fans share silent memory of Hillsborough dead

By Ronald Faux

FIFTEEN thousand football fans stood in silence at the Anfield ground in Liverpool yesterday, marking the moment a year ago when 95 people died in the Hillsborough disaster. Two of the fans injured that day are still in hospital, in coma.

The solemn memorial service was led by senior Liverpool clergy on the east turf of the Anfield ground where the ashes of some of the victims lie scattered. Among those present were Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition and Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary. Hymns accompanied by the Salvation Army band and singers from Merseyside Opera were carried across the ground on a cold spring wind.

More supporters had been expected to attend the service and large areas of the stadium were empty but the fans, civil leaders of Liverpool, Sheffield and Nottingham and the Football authorities ensured that there was nothing to lessen the strong sense of sorrow and occasion at the ground.

The Anglican bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, said that in the silence they had remembered those they had loved and felt again the sharpness of personal loss and the waste of the tragedy.

Education, page 19

He had been proud of how Liverpool coped after Hillsborough. "I was proud of the whole community of Merseyside and of friends of Liverpool far afield. Messages of sympathy came from all over the country and all over the world, people saying they were with us."

"Here in this city the support was so real you could almost touch it. Half the pitch covered with flowers, not a barrier on the Kop visible; thousands of survivors of different colours tied there in sympathy."

It had not been just sentimentality, the bishop said. It had spoken of a great family standing together and it had helped people to cope with their personal tragedies.

"It said it was alright to share deep feelings. Football terraces have always been macho places; men were not expected to weep or to tell each other how they were feeling. In that first fortnight many were able to express feelings of grief or anger or guilt — perhaps feeling guilty just at having been there and having survived."

The bishop said: "Perhaps we said: 'All we have is neighbourliness or family ties, or friendship'. Those have leaves and fishes; and the Lord has taken them, turned them into little miracles of healing. We did not know what to say, so we did better

and listened; or we sat with people who wanted to be still. Our leaves and fishes include calling round to say 'hello' or going for a walk together, ringing up to ask how someone was feeling or sending a card as a reminder that someone cared."

The bishop said the in his family's garden they had planted three small crab apple trees as their memorial to Hillsborough. Each autumn they would bear dozens of small, round scarlet and yellow fruits — Liverpool's colours.

"Each winter the crab apples will fall and die. When there are only the dark stems of winter to see, it is hard to believe any new life is to come. But today the first blossoms of new life are vigorously blooming. The blossom is the promise that new fruit will appear later in the year."



"Some people come down here for a holiday, and some bring their wives with them"

Sale of plates ends saucy postcard era

By John Shaw

PART of a comic world of fat ladies and hen-pecked husbands will disappear this week. They were the creations of Donald McGill, king of the saucy postcard, whose output sold in millions between 1904 and his death in 1962.

McGill's publisher went into liquidation two years ago. Odd cards may still linger in some seaside postcard racks, but 140 master copper printing plates and a stock of 2,000 cards are to be sold at GA Auction Galleries, Worthing, West Sussex, on Saturday.

They were found in the corner of a warehouse at Littlehampton. Mr Paul Campbell, the auctioneer, said: "They are little gems. Many of them are still in their protective envelopes and seem to have been untouched since the 1940s." They reveal a post-war world of sentiment, "making do" in austerity, and broad double entendres.

"Some of it was lowlife humour, but it was never obscene," Mr Campbell said. "It was very innocent compared with today. On the other hand, his comic studies of children were brilliant."

Forty original McGill watercolours are also in the sale. They are estimated at between £150-£200 each. He turned out about 12,500 cards, and his "golden age" was from the 1930s to the early 1960s.

He had skirmishes with the law and some designs aroused provincial sensitivities. Several bear the stamp of approval from something called The Blackpool Postcard Censorship Board.

McGill left only £375 0s 6d, but in an essay on his art, George Orwell wrote: "What you are really looking at is something as traditional as Greek tragedy, a sort of world of snatched bottoms and scrawny mothers-in-law which is part of western European consciousness."

Rethink of plans for national body to run JPs' courts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

RADICAL plans by the Home Office to create a national magistrates' courts service in England and Wales, funded and run by central government, appear to have been substantially modified after widespread criticism.

The plans, put forward in a Home Office scrutiny report last summer, have been criticized by many magistrates who fear that the proposals threaten their independence.

The Home Office has now, however, indicated a significant shift away from its central plan, under which the magistrates' courts service

would be run by an executive agency headed by a director general directly responsible to the Home Secretary.

Instead, it is proposing to cost three options, a decision made in response to concern expressed by magistrates and others over the plans.

These options are for the original scrutiny proposal for an executive agency; a second model, under which the service would be run by a board instead of a chief executive; and a third model, involving a more fragmented structure with several area management units funded by central gov-

ernment but independently managed by local boards.

Mr John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said he was "encouraged" by the fact that the Home Office was clearly prepared to re-think its proposals. "It is indicative of flexibility and of willingness to negotiate on a broader front."

The association had not yet assessed the new third option. However, he was concerned with the likely result if administration of the service were divided into large regions, perhaps coterminous with those of the Crown Prosecution Service. In some areas, these would be far too big, he said.

The second option, involving a board structure, was preferable to the original plan for an executive agency because it would allow for magistrates to be represented and therefore involved in running the service.

Under the original plan, the role of magistrates was reduced to a token "couple of justices" somewhere in the organization, Mr Hosking said.

He said: "Our concern is that magistrates both retain a substantial role at every level and a controlling role in connection with training and the appointment of justices' clerks or legal advisers. If we finished up with an administratively-based organization, the administrators would control the training and that we cannot accept."

The association accepts the case for reforming the administration of the magistracy and does not oppose plans for 100 per cent central government funding (at present 20 per cent comes from local authorities).

However, it remains concerned that the plans threaten JPs' independence. It maintains that with no input from magistrates, the new agency, however hard it and the Home Office might try, would find it very difficult to leave the magistracy with the degree of financial independence it now has.

Announcing the options in a recent parliamentary answer, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said that they were being put forward in the light of comments on the scrutiny report. He would not reach any firm decisions about the service's organization until he had had "an opportunity to consider the results of this costing assessment".

'Cab rank' ruling may be cut from legal reform Bill

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Government is expected to seek to remove the "cab-rank" rule from the Courts and Legal Services Bill, in the Commons for its second reading this week.

The decision on the most hotly-contested provision in the Bill — which would require solicitors and barristers to take each case in strict order as it comes along — follows discussions between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, and the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC.

Sir Patrick is now likely to put forward an amendment that would impose a statutory duty on those drawing up the professional rules on solicitor-advocates to ensure that they contain some kind of cab-rank rule.

Mr Walter Merricks, assistant secretary general of the Law Society, said such a move would "seem to be a sensible way round the problem".

Insertion of the cab-rank rule into the Bill in the House of Lords was a significant victory for the Bar, which wants solicitor-advocates in the higher courts to be bound by the same rules as barristers.

It was the most significant government defeat in the Bill's passage.

The Law Society said that such a rule would fetter the exercise of wider advocacy rights by solicitors under the

Bill's reforms. They would have to perform like "mini-barristers", Mr Merricks said.

If the Government adopted the formula which removed the rule from primary legislation the society would be able to identify from the "cab-rank" label those elements which could be applied to solicitors, he said.

The phrase had several strands of meaning. "If it means taking the rough with the smooth, of course we support that ethos," he said.

However, solicitors had to be free to choose the areas of work they wished to specialize in and whether to do legal aid work.

He did not believe the Lord Chancellor intended every firm in the country to be bound to do a legal aid case.

Nor, he said, should barristers have such a requirement imposed on them.

"If there was a statutory requirement to do legal aid work, the Government could let the rates of pay drop down and down with impunity."

Solicitors have widely criticized the workings of the Bar's cab-rank rule as more apparent than real.

An article on the issue in last week's *Legal Action*, the journal of the Legal Action Group of lawyers and advice workers, said that the Bar's rule "does not bear too much investigation".

Bottles and glasses 'used in most attacks in cities'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

FOUR out of five injuries from assault are caused by the use of beer glasses and bottles, according to a survey of accident and emergency centres in five large city hospitals.

It found that 70 per cent of victims sustained noticeable facial scarring and one in 20 were likely to have long-term disabilities.

The study, reported in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, was carried out in casualty departments in Bristol, Manchester, Sunderland, Birmingham and Edinburgh over two weekends last May and involved 43 patients.

Of the injuries, 58 per cent were caused by straight one-pint beer glasses, 21 per cent by bottles and less than 5 per cent by either pint or half-pint beer tankards, half-pint lager glasses or wine and spirit

glasses. Most patients injured with bottles or large lager glasses said they had not been broken before impact.

Seven out of 10 attacks took place in or near public houses or discotheques and involved young people in late night or early morning disturbances.

Surgeons from the Department of Oral Medicine, Surgery and Pathology at Bristol Royal Infirmary and Bristol University, who made the survey, said use of safety glass or plastic could cut the number of injuries considerably. The properties of large lager glasses should be altered and codes of practice should be introduced to cover use of safety glass or plastic containers in urban licensed premises, "particularly those frequented mainly by young people", the report said.

Management efficiency measures and increased sale of larger meant that more straight sided glasses were being produced. Between 1983 and 1989 production of straight lager glasses increased by 40 per cent at the expense of beer tankards.

Surgeons said that as a result of these changes glass abuse may be becoming more frequent.

● The number of beds in acute hospitals in the National Health Service has dropped by more than 25,000 in the past 10 years, the Labour Party claims today.

Mr Robin Cook, shadow health spokesman, said the losses represented "a massive haemorrhage in the body of the NHS" and called on the Government to take urgent action to halt the decline.

UK crime victims 'are paid more'

BRITAIN has one of the most generous state-run compensation schemes for victims of violent crime in Western Europe, Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State, said yesterday (Quentin Cowdy writes).

He made public a letter he has sent to Sir John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North, in which he recalls that £70 million was paid in 1988 to victims of crimes such as muggings and armed robberies in England, Scotland and Wales.

That compared with payments by similar schemes in France and West Germany — countries with roughly comparable popula-

tions to Britain — of £11 million and £13 million respectively.

He also pointed out that, according to a recent survey, Britain suffered proportionately less violent crime than either of the other two countries.

It appears that Mr Patten's letter was prompted by recent criticism of the efficiency of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Government's decision to raise the lower limit for payouts from £550 to £750. Opposition MPs and the charity, Victim Support, say the move will deprive about 9,000 people of compensation each year.

American chrome at home in a British park



Denise Wiggins and Neil Scott, members of the 'Hi Domers', at the Pre 50 American Auto Club's rally at Syon Park, west London, yesterday

Americans challenge theories on UK crime

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

THE widespread belief that crime is chiefly the product of social factors such as poor housing or poverty is to be challenged by a Conservative think-tank next month.

A group of influential American academics has been brought together by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), the independent policy unit jointly founded by the Prime Minister. They will argue that the roots of crime lie in the collapse of the family and the erosion of individual responsibility.

They will warn a London conference, organized jointly with the Manhattan Institute of New York, that the radical changes in British society of the last 30 years closely resemble the circumstances behind the American crime-wave.

The conference on May 9, to be opened by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, will be addressed by Dr Charles Murray, an American academic who has said that the combination of rapidly rising illegitimacy and the reluctance to work among some young people is creating an underclass cut off from the rest of British society.

Dr Sheila Lawlor, the deputy director of studies at the CPS, said she hopes the conference — entitled "The Crime Culture" — would encourage people to take a fresh look at crime and its links with the changing social order "instead of relying on the orthodoxies of the 1960s and 1970s".

Other speakers will include Professor Richard Herrnstein, Professor of Psychology at Harvard, whose book *Crime and Human Nature*, co-written with Professor James Q. Wilson, also of Harvard, has had a significant impact on American thinking on crime.

It argues that crime cannot be explained by social factors alone and is the result of individual choice strongly influenced by biological make-up and family relationships.



Mr Baker: Will open the conference on crime

Russians likely to scrap 100 warships, MoD says

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Soviet Navy is engaged in a big exercise to reduce its fleet, with more than 100 ships and submarines likely to be scrapped this year, according to an internal Ministry of Defence assessment.

The document said that the Soviet Union may end up with "a leaner and meaner Navy". It said: "On the basis of present building rates and an average ship life of 30 years, the Soviet Navy should probably bottom out at about eight carriers of various sorts, 20 cruisers and battlecruisers, perhaps 120 destroyers and large frigates and a similar number of nuclear-powered submarines."

Since Mr Gorbachev came to power in 1985 the Soviet Navy has carried out no big exercises. There has been a sharp drop, too, in "ship-days-out-of-area".

Recently there have been reports of growing criticism in the Soviet Navy that under pre-Gorbachev regimes the policy was to build big ships "as status symbols". The min-

istry document said that in an age of "defensive sufficiency" — Mr Gorbachev's concept of minimum defence — "the old stress on the Soviet Navy as a global and bluewater fleet looks increasingly anachronistic to a political leadership more interested in maritime arms control".

The Soviet Navy has not improved the country's strategic position to an extent that would justify the resources devoted to it, the document added.

"The navy's case will not have been helped either by its political failures in the Third World or by the more recent series of embarrassing submarine accidents at home and abroad."

The document also faces "a block obsolescence problem" in the 1990s, as it needed to replace the large number of ships and submarines that will be approaching the end of their operational lives.

The document said that more units were decommissioned in 1988 than in any

other year in recent history.

In May 1989 the process of scrapping ships and submarines reached new heights when a soft drinks company took a cruiser, a destroyer, a frigate and 17 submarines as scrap in part exchange for its products sold in the Soviet Union.

"There are estimates that in 1990 the Soviet Navy will dispose of at least 35 diesel submarines and 70 ships, with more to follow," the document said.

"There are also some indications of a slow-down in new building, with some of the larger units taking longer than expected to complete and with a higher proportion of the output being sold abroad."

The document said that a real indicator of a substantially reduced future role for the Soviet Union would be "a drastic thinning of current and future building activity".

Yet there was little "concrete sign" of any significant cut-backs. For example, the new Tbilisi aircraft-carrying cruiser is expected to deploy a variant of the Su27 Flanker fighter aircraft, perhaps backed up with MiG29 Fulcrums and Su25s.

The Ministry of Defence said: "Earlier Western scepticism about the Tbilisi's capacity to operate effective conventional aircraft was plainly misplaced."

However, there was criticism within the Soviet Union that the carrier programme was costing too much and that the funds should be switched to "solving the social problems of the Soviet military".

Last year Admiral Chernomyr, commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy, said in an interview with the Tass news agency that Nato continued to preach "the forward sea-basing doctrine".

RSPCA finds animal bodies in farm pit

RSPCA inspectors have found the charred and emaciated carcasses of 160 goats and sheep in a pit on a farm in Somerset after a tip-off from animal-lovers.

Officers said the animals had died from starvation and neglect. The carcasses had been dumped in the pit, doused with petrol and set on fire.

Another 200 sheep and goats were barely alive through lack of food and water at the farm in Hatch Beauchamp. Most were too weak to take the few steps to

an RSPCA van sent to take them away for treatment.

Mr Guy Harrison, an RSPCA inspector, said: "It was one of the most horrible sights I have ever seen."

"We went to the field after receiving a number of complaints about the condition of the herd. The moment I stepped out of the van I was greeted by the stench of death on a massive scale."

Mr Harrison said: "The farmer and his wife have been reported for offences under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act."

Labour accuses Ridley of hampering export firms

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Department of Trade and Industry is today accused of handicapping British companies in the run-up to the Single European Market in 1992.

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour's trade spokesman, says that the determination of Mr Nicholas Ridley, the anti-interventionist Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to stymie down the role of his department has led to cuts which will hinder the efforts of British industry to compete.

Mr Brown says that economies ordered by Mr Ridley include an £18 million reduction (64 per cent) in regional enterprise grants, from £28 million to £10 million; a £14 million cut in consultancy initiatives of special help to small businesses; and a £13 million (38 per cent) reduction in aid for firms developing technical ideas for business use.

Even trade missions and Design Council support are being cut, according to a Labour Party analysis of the Government's expenditure figures.

Mr Brown says: "These new cuts confirm just how widespread is the Ridley plan to cut

back on the Department of Trade and Industry. Just about every service vital to our prospects for 1992 is being cut back."

Mr Brown accuses Mr Ridley of going the other way just as Britain's competitors are being given expanded aid.

"The cuts in export services are unforgivable at a time when the challenge of a wider Europe is opening up before us and when Britain is already behind France, Germany and America in the battle for East European as well as Western European markets," Mr Brown says.

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Party radio station is closed by police

A pirate radio station used to publicize locations of "acid house" parties has been closed after a raid by police and Department of Trade and Industry officials.

Radio Elite, based at a house in Corringham, Essex, broadcast the venture's frequency known only to would-be party-goers at specified times.

Hotel evacuated

About 600 people were moved from a hotel and houses in Worthing, West Sussex, early yesterday morning for several hours when a blaze destroyed a furniture warehouse next to a fuel store.

Thumb sewn on

Mr Gary Burgess, a climber aged 23, whose thumb was severed in a cliff fall at St Crispian's Head, Dyfed, was recovering in hospital after surgeons stitched it back.

Murder charge

A man living with Mrs Susan Holder, a mother of four who was found strangled at her home in Dartford, Kent, is to appear in court today charged with murder. Police have not named him.

Record push

Miss Donna Davies, aged 25, of Swansea, aims to create a record by being pushed in her wheelchair 3,500ft to the peak of Snowdon.

'Archers' club

A fan club, "Archers Addict", for the eight monthly listeners to the radio soap opera *The Archers* is to be launched later this month.

Women's taxis

Lady Cabs, an all-female taxi service, has been set up in Dudley, West Midlands, to counter women passengers' fears of attack at night.

Dinghy mystery

Police are trying to trace the owner of an empty, fully-rigged 10ft dinghy washed ashore at Poole, Dorset.

On the hop

Miss Julie Gate, a store assistant, gave chase and arrested four suspected shoplifters in Carlisle — while dressed as an Easter bunny.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000 (26PW 750494 from Essex); £50,000 (2LT 087792, Leicestershire); £25,000 (18LZ 134892, Gwent).

Roads policy 'must respect desire for rural peace'

By John Young

THE Government's transport policy is directed at letting drivers choose to drive further and faster, regardless of the consequences, Miss Penny Evans, assistant secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said yesterday.

"For CPRE this policy is unacceptable," Miss Evans said. "Greater weight must be given to the freedom to choose to live, work in and visit an unspoiled and peaceful countryside."

"Increasing traffic, faster speeds and more heavy lorries will increase the pressures on country life. New solutions are needed urgently."

Approval had recently been given for a new dual carriageway along the White Cliffs of Dover, the extension

of the M3 across Twyford Down, near Winchester, and a new east London river crossing. Between them, they would despoil ancient monuments and woodland, and designated areas of outstanding natural beauty, sites of special scientific interest and heritage coastline, she said.

Proposals under consideration included the widening of the A628/616 across the Peak National Park, encroaching on open moorland; a new route across the South Downs from Kent to Hampshire to link with the Channel tunnel; and the dualing of the A339 between Newbury and Basingstoke across Greenham Common, she said.

Speed limits should be lowered, restrictions placed on heavy goods vehicles and more controls placed

on access to main roads and motorways. "Traffic-calming" measures were needed as much in the countryside as in towns and cities.

The latest issue of the council's magazine, *Countryside Campaigner*, says that road schemes have long been justified by dubious accounting techniques that include among the benefits of a scheme time-saving and safety, but which fail to address the costs of traffic generation, visual impact or environmental damage.

"All these costs are irreplaceable as part of our natural capital and — especially relevant to the White Cliffs' exceptional historic, cultural and scenic importance — impossible to calculate in monetary terms," it says.

"If the Government regards the need for a new road as absolute, and

such environmental treasures as expendable, its credibility as the stewards of our inheritance will be ruined along with the White Cliffs."

● The Chief Constable of Surrey, Mr Brian Hayes, has repeated his call for all of the M25 to be fully lit (Mark Souster writes).

Addressing the British Parliamentary Lighting Group, Mr Hayes gave details of 11 serious accidents in which 21 people have died on unit sections of the motorway. These were examples, he said, of avoidable accidents that had occurred either at night or in fog over a six-year period in the Surrey, Kent and Thames Valley police areas.

Mr Hayes, a member of the M25 Chief Constables' Committee, made up of representatives of the six forces through which the 127-mile

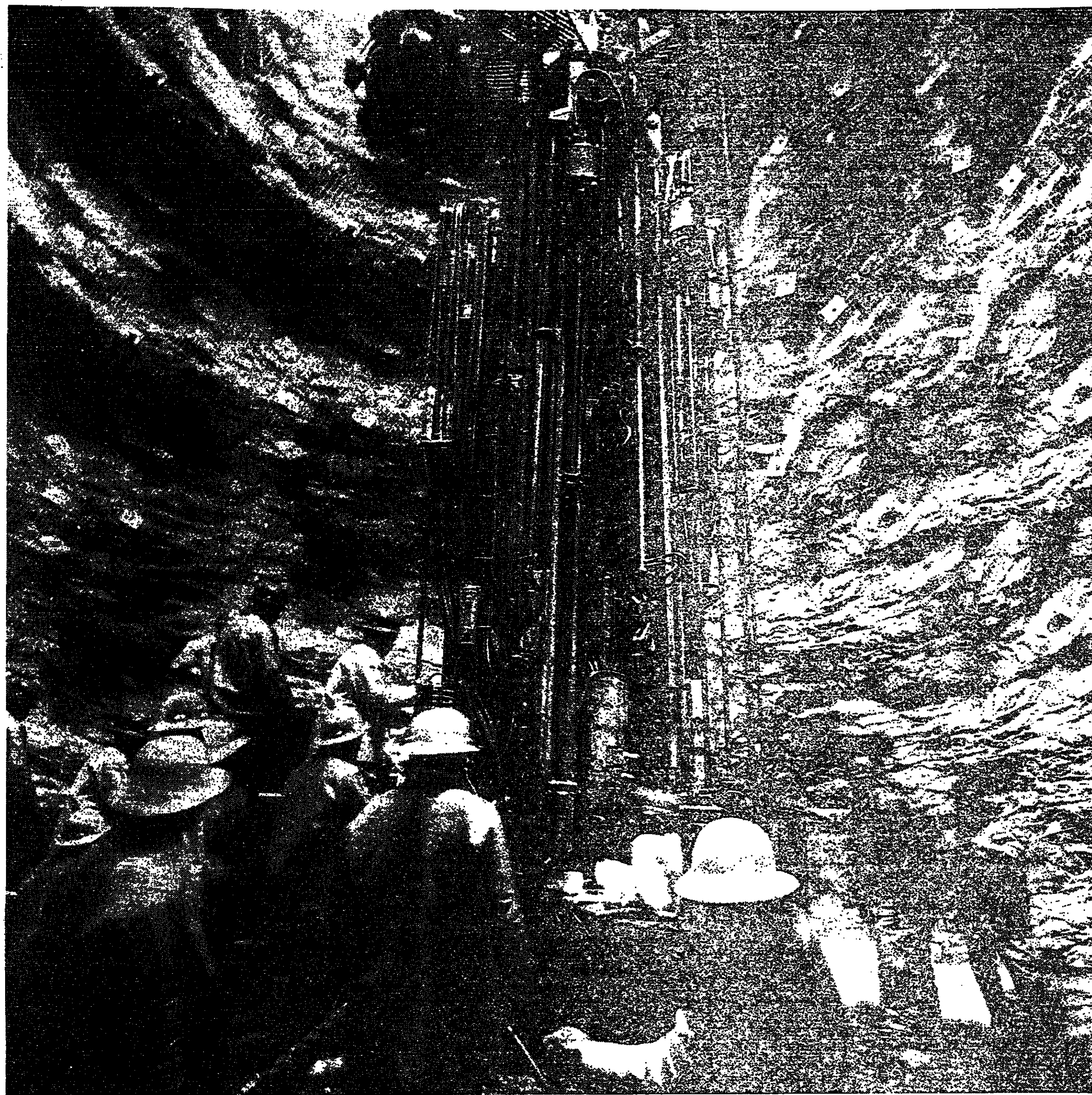
orbital motorway runs, has pressed successive ministers and the Department of Transport for the M25 to be fully lit, not just the 47 miles lit at present.

The worst accident occurred in heavy fog on the Surrey-Kent border in December 1984, when nine people died. Twenty-six vehicles were involved and the ensuing fire took a day to put out. The motorway was closed for three days.

The cost of lighting the motorway was estimated at £10 million in 1985, with running costs of an additional £640,000 a year.

The British Parliamentary Lighting Group said: "The cost of lighting all the M25 would be small compared with the cost of the motorway itself, but its benefits would be enormous in saving lives."

LIQUIDATION AUCTION
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MORI poll shows Tories must make biggest recovery to retain power

Labour jumps into a 17% lead

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

NO GOVERNMENT this century has faced such a daunting set of opinion poll results as those recorded by MORI in the latest three-month aggregate survey of voting intentions, one of the largest measurements of opinion on the polling scene.

Whatever happens at the next general election, records will now be set. Labour has always required the biggest post-war swing to achieve victory next time. Now for the Conservatives to retain power they must make the biggest-ever recovery from a mid-term trough.

No government has ever fallen more than 20 per cent behind the main opposition party and come back to win. On the March figures alone the Conservatives were 24 per cent behind Labour.

The latest MORI survey shows that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is now the least popular Prime Minister in British polling history, with only 20 per cent of those questioned satisfied with her performance and 76 per cent dissatisfied.

She is still, however, seven points clear of equalling Mr Michael Foot's unenviable record as the most unpopular party leader ever at 13 per cent.

The lowest satisfaction rating for Mr Neil Kinnock, who has averaged 42 per cent satisfaction for the past three months, was 27 per cent in December 1988.

Back in June 1982 Mrs Thatcher had a satisfaction rating of 59 per cent, so almost 40 people in every 100 have since changed their mind about her.

The latest MORI figures will intensify pressures on Mrs Thatcher's leadership and increase Conservative debate about whether she should step down before the election. The Prime Minister is, however, still running ahead of the Government which, with a satisfaction rating of only 16 per cent, has matched the previous record low.

The 79 per cent dissatisfaction with the Government is also the worst ever such rating. Another bleak figure for the Government is that the economic optimism index, obtained by subtracting those who believe that the economy will deteriorate over the next year from those who expect it to improve, is showing the lowest figure since 1980 at minus 43.

Almost two thirds of poll respondents, 60 per cent, are pessimistic about economic prospects over the next year while only 17 per cent believe

that things will improve. As the accompanying graph confirms, there has been a close correlation in recent years between the economic optimism index and the popularity rating of the Government. MORI research shows that 90 per cent of the change in voting intention since the last general election is accounted for by the change in economic optimism.

In a sample of 5,684 adults MORI measured party support over the past three months at Labour 51 per cent, Conservatives 34 per cent, Liberal Democrats 5 per cent, SDP 4 per cent, Green Party 4 per cent and Others 2 per cent.

That compares with figures over the past three elections:

	Con	Lab	Lib/All
1979	45	38	14
1983	44	28	26
1987	43	32	23

Repeated across the country on a uniform swing at the next general election, the present figures would result in a Labour majority of 118 seats, with Labour holding 384, the Conservatives 239, Nationalists 9, and Ulster parties 17. But local variations are likely in practice, particularly in seats held by the former Alliance parties.

The latest figures are far worse for the Conservative Government even than those at the October 1974 general election, the last time Labour won an election. The results then were: Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 37 per cent and Liberals 19 per cent. By contrast with the Labour lead of just 3 per cent, Mr Kinnock's party, which only moved into the lead for the first time in the second quarter of 1989, has now opened up a gap of 17 per cent.

The swing away from the Government in the first quarter of 1990 is another record. The Labour lead in the last quarter of 1989 was only 8 per cent, less than half the present gap.

The evidence of other recent polls is that the lead has been extending further towards the end of the period covered by the three-month MORI survey. It is the biggest swing against the Government in a single quarter since the 1987 general election.

That could be explained by yet another record set in the latest poll. Those naming the poll tax and local government as one of the two or three most important issues have increased over each of the past three months from 22 per cent in January to 32 per cent in February and 49 per cent in March, the biggest single in-

crease in a month for any issue.

Local government issues have rarely in past years rated higher than 10-12 per cent but they are now 23 per cent higher than any other single subject.

The Government's poor showing on the community charge issue indicates a clear failure to put across its message on local government reforms, which do produce winners as well as losers.

When MORI polled voters on general election day in 1987 there were significant majorities against water and electricity privatization and against the proposed educational reforms, but there was a 4 per cent plurality in favour of the poll tax promised in the election manifesto.

A recent MORI poll of 1,087 electors on March 23, after the Budget and the Mid Staffordshire by-election, showed that 65 per cent opposed the poll tax and only 23 per cent approved of the idea, a net minus 42 per cent.

Three quarters of those polled thought that the Budget would make the rich richer and the poor poorer and the same proportion believed it would not reduce unemployment.

Two thirds thought that it would not keep inflation down, 60 per cent did not believe it would help to get Britain's economy going and 60 per cent did not believe it would help business confidence. Almost 70 per cent believed that it offered no incentive to work harder.

What will depress government supporters still further is that the Labour lead now appears to reflect not only reaction against the Government's policies but a growing belief that Labour has better policies to meet some of the present problems.

In MORI's March poll of 1,826 adults 60 per cent thought that Labour had the best policies on health care compared to only 15 per cent who believed the Conservative Government did.

On education the score was 46 per cent for Labour and 24 per cent for the Government. Labour was seen as marginally better than the Tories on protecting the environment and 34 per cent thought that Labour had the best policies on local government finance, compared to 24 per cent who believed the Conservatives did.

The only issue on which the Government outscored Labour was defence, by a margin of 44 per cent support to 26 per cent, and even that represents a significant closing of the gap since the last election.

Ominously for the Conservatives, who have always relied on their reputation for better management of the economy as a vote winner, the parties are now rated equally at 31 per cent in terms of their ability to look after the nation's finances. Asked in MORI's Budget poll if the Government's policies would in the long term improve the state of Britain's economy, 55 per cent said they would not and only 34 per cent believed they would.

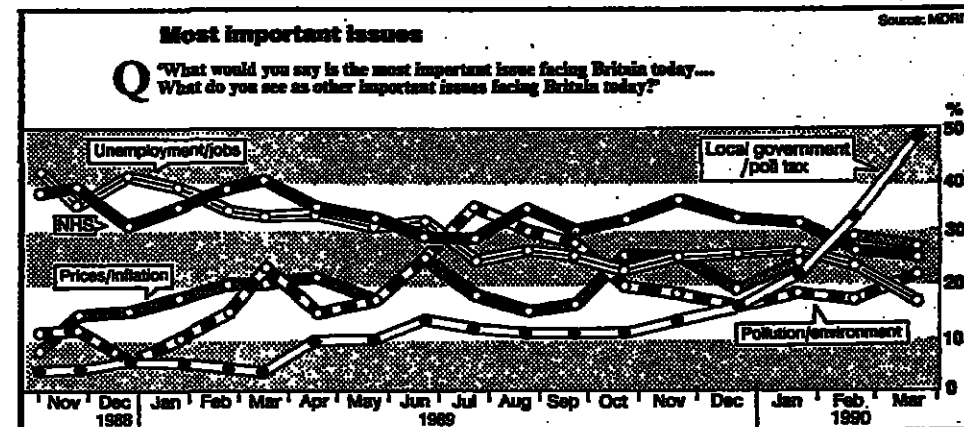
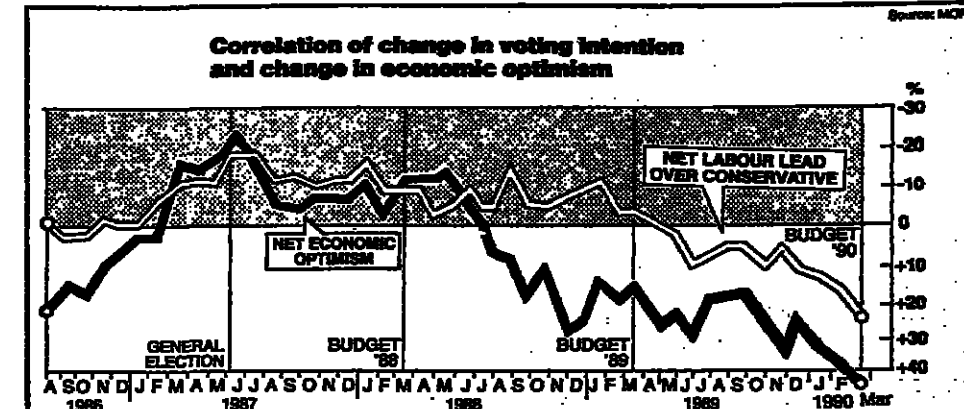
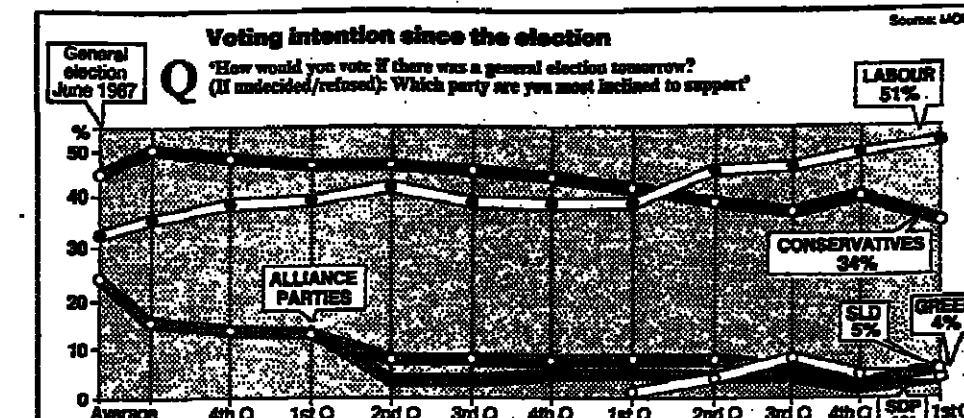
The full aggregate poll shows that the Government has suffered a haemorrhage of support in virtually every class, age group and region. Interest rates and mortgage rates are clearly having a significant effect on Conservative support and, for the moment at least, the Thatcher Government's achievement in increasing the proportion of home owners from 52 per cent of the population in 1979 to 66 per cent now is costing it support.

In 1979 the Tory lead in this group was 24 per cent, in 1983 it was 33 per cent and in 1987 it was 27 per cent.

In the first quarter of 1989 the Conservatives still had a lead of 21 per cent among owner occupiers which was steadily whittled down during the year as higher mortgage rates had their effect.

Now, for the first time, Labour is ahead with a 1 per cent lead. The Conservative-Labour swing since the last election has been 14 per cent among owner occupiers, compared with 12.5 per cent among council tenants, where Labour already had a huge lead.

Among private tenants, who represent only 8 per cent



Q: What would you say is the most important issue facing Britain today? What do you see as the other important issues facing Britain today?

	NHS	Unemp	Envmt	Prices	Crime	Economy	Education	Disarm	Poll tax
Jan 18-22	31	26	19	24	14	24	13	5	22
Feb 15-19	27	28	18	24	12	26	14	5	32
Mar 15-20	25	18	21	26	9	24	12	3	49

of voters, the swing has been 16.5 per cent as people have found their poll tax to pay and no reduction in rent.

In class terms, the position among skilled workers underlines the Tory decline. In 1974, when Labour won, it had a lead of 23 per cent among C2s, who then represented 33 per cent of the electorate. In 1979 the two main parties shared the support of C2s and in the next two elections there was a Tory lead of 8 per cent and 4 per cent in that group.

Labour moved back into the lead among skilled workers (who are now down to 27 per cent of the electorate) in the second quarter of 1988 and has now extended the margin to 28 per cent.

Labour has whittled down the Tory lead among the ABC1 middle classes from 36 per cent at the last general election to just 12 per cent in the latest quarter.

Among the age groups, a Labour lead of 2 per cent among the 18 to 24 age group at the last election has soared

to 33 per cent, nearly doubling between the last quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990.

The Labour lead among the 25 to 34 age group averaged 7.8 per cent through 1989 and has more than tripled from that to 25 per cent. There is now a 16 per cent Labour lead among the 35-54 age group.

Labour's lead among the 55-plus age group (where the Tories had a 15 per cent margin at the last election) is only 8 per cent. That may be accounted for by the fact that many in that age group have finished buying their own homes and benefit from high interest rates on their savings while others are becoming the high level of mortgage interest.

The swing from Conservative to Labour since the last election is 11 per cent in the North, 14.5 per cent in the Midlands and 17 per cent in the South.

Labour's lead in the North has extended from 10 per cent at the last election to 32 per cent, while the Tory lead of 31

per cent in the South has become a Labour lead of 3 per cent.

In the crucial electoral battleground of the Midlands a Tory lead at the last election of 11 per cent has become a Labour lead of 18 per cent.

Conservative supporters seeking signs of hope amid the grim welter of statistics will have to scratch hard, but Tory strategists will note that while Conservative support dropped 6 per cent over the last quarter only 3 points of that went to Labour, the other 3 points being divided between the two former Alliance parties.

After the small improvement in the Liberal Democrats' performance at the Mid Staffordshire by-election that may indicate that the centre party slump has bottomed out.

A reasonable performance by the Liberal Democrats in the May local elections could initiate a recovery which would bring some relief to the Conservatives by redividing the protest vote.

The 23 per cent Alliance support at the last general election is presently fragmented with the Liberal Democrats, SDP and Green Party sharing 13 per cent between them. Labour has taken the rest.

Conservatives might note too that the Harold Wilson government of 1966-70 did recover from a 25 per cent opinion poll deficit to take the lead again before an election, although it then lost.

Mr Edward Heath's government recovered from a 20 per cent deficit to lead in its second year to come close to winning in February 1974. The ensuing Labour Government also managed to close completely a 20 per cent gap which opened up in the opinion polls before it was priced open again by the Winter of Discontent. So it can be done.

The figures are based on the aggregated findings from MORI's voting intention surveys conducted over the period from January-March 1990. In total 5,684 adults aged 18 plus were interviewed face-to-face across Great Britain at 144 constituency sampling points. Data were weighted to represent the profile of the population.

© MORI/Times Newspapers

Women are drawn to Kinnock policies

WHILE Labour has a 21 per cent lead among men, the gap is only 14 per cent among women, who constitute 51 per cent of voters.

Throughout the last two parliaments women voters tended to be 6 to 8 per cent more likely to support the Tories than men.

That gap disappeared at the general election, when the Tory lead was 11 per cent both among men and women.

Over the final three quarters in 1989 the gap reappeared as the Labour lead among women moved from 6 to 11 to 15 per cent and 21 per cent in the first quarter of 1990.

Meanwhile the Labour lead among women dropped from 3 per cent to 2 and then 1, before jumping to 14 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

There is growing evidence that women are demonstrating a greater political independence, with Labour advancing particularly among young, radical middle-class women.

That is perhaps due partly to the prominence of the health service and education

well-off are helped. We need to keep telling people of the extensive rebates for the less well-off - 10 million will benefit."

Mr David Blunkett, the Labour local government spokesman, said: "Chris Patten and his colleagues are living in cloud-cuckoo land if they think that specially designed surveys can do anything to change the reality of people's understanding of the most iniquitous tax there has ever been."

The survey is likely to increase pressure among Conservative MPs for the charge to be more closely related to ability to pay.

He said: "It is clear that there is strong support for the principles behind the community charge - provided the less

Rumblings of shires revolt over uniform business rate

By Mark Sonster

AS THE future over the community charge dies down, if only temporarily, a second front appears to be opening in the shires with the rumblings of a revolt against the Uniform Business Rate (UBR).

Embarrassingly, perhaps, for an increasingly beleaguered government, its epicentre is in Bath, the constituency of Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

There, 240 businesses, faced with rate increases of between 100 per cent and 300 per cent, have refused to pay the new rate. Instead, they will offer to pay last year's rate, plus 8 per cent for inflation.

Whether this is just a little local difficulty or something more widespread remains to be seen. In the

showpiece Georgian city, however, feelings are running high. Shop windows are plastered with posters declaring "No to the Uniform Business Rate". Shopkeepers have formed the Bath Business Rate and Rent Increases in Bath (BARRB), which meets tomorrow to plan strategy.

In the following week, businesses taking part in the protest will close for an hour, and at the end of the month Bath Guildhall will be the scene of a mass payment of bills in small change.

A large number of Bath businesses have already closed and many others are planning to do so because of the UBR, Mr Philip Andrews, of BARRB, said. "Bath could end up a ghost city."

Whether Mr Patten will still be its parliamentary representative, defending as he does a majority of 1,412, is another matter.

The National Chamber of Trade predicts that the UBR will force the closure of 15,000 small businesses, mainly in the South-east. The Forum of Private Business believes the figure will be over 40,000.

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable because they are unlikely to have branches in the North where rate reductions can offset the high increases in the South.

The chamber wants the Government to shield small businesses in England and Wales from the initial ravages of the new rate with direct financial support. The Retail Consortium estimates that 99 per cent of all businesses will appeal against their UBR bill.

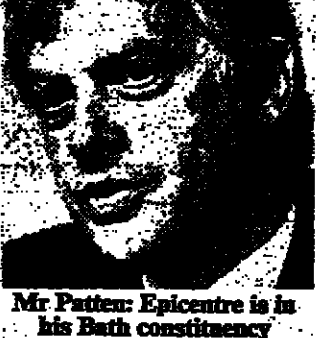
© The High Court has set June 27 as the date to hear a claim that more than a million people who have bought £1 shares in a Cornish tin mining company are exempt from paying the community charge.

Mr Fred Trull, aged 65, "clerk" to Cornwall's ancient Stannary Parliament, says that a 1508 royal charter exempts from taxes anyone involved in tin mining.

He says that the community charge is not legal because it has not been approved by the Stannary Parliament.

The Department of the Environment has dismissed Mr Trull's claims and last month the Department of Trade and Industry obtained a High Court action freezing all activities of the company.

Mr Patten: Epicentre is in his Bath constituency



Scuba divers split in a storm over change at the top

By David Sapsted

THE hitherto untroubled waters of the British Sub-Aqua Club, the world's largest scuba-diving club, which has the Prince of Wales among its 35,000 members, are being swept by an unprecedented storm.

Internal strife over proposals to move the club's headquarters from London to Eileanor Port, the departure of the organization's chief executive (resignation, according to the club, constructive dismissal, according to him); and a takeover bid of the national executive by a group of disaffected members have led to turmoil.

There is also a simmering controversy over an extraordinary general meeting called by the club council late last year to discuss three motions.

Two of them were found on the day to be invalid and the third was defeated by the proxy votes held by one of the national council members.

Matters will reach a head next month when the annual meeting is held at Weston-super-Mare.

In the club's 37-year history, such meetings normally rubber-stamp most appointments of national officers but, for the first time this year, three people are vying for the post of chairman, and two each for national diving officer, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. There are also 23 candidates for the nine national council positions.

The latest *Diver* magazine reports: "The most critical election in the history of the BSAC is about to be held."

Two distinct camps are bitterly at odds with one another, each with their own, different ideas on how the club should be run.

"The outcome will significantly affect divers and diving throughout the country in the years to come."

The main opposition to the existing club establishment is the "Doncaster Group", which met in the South Yorkshire town to draw up a manifesto calling for a fundamental overhaul of the administration, finances and, particularly, the council's links with its hundreds of branches in Britain and abroad.

Most of the demands are "old hat" according to present officers seeking re-election, though they admit that the call for improved communication with members represents an area where "we should have done better."

Disquiet over the move to a new £400,000 headquarters in the North-west is also proving a point of dispute.

According to the existing council, the shift from expensive, rented offices in central London will prove cost effective but Mr R L "Buff" Norgren, chief executive until February and now one of the candidates for chairman, says the commitment to the move was neither responsible nor businesslike.

Mr Mike Todd, one of the other candidates for chairman, says: "I have come to feel that the organizing group - HQ, the officers and the council - have become too remote."

Percentage change in voting trends since fourth quarter 1989

	4 Qtr Now	Ch	4 Qtr Now	Ch	4 Qtr Now	Ch
C	40	34	-6	37	32	-5
Lab	48	51	+3	52	53	+1
SLD	4	5	+1	4	5	+1
SDP	2	4	+2	3	5	+2
Gr	4	4	0	4	4	0
C lead	-8	-17		-15	-21	

	ABC1 (51%)	C2 (31%)	DE (28%)
C	33	27	-6
Lab	32	35	+3
SLD	5	7	+2
SDP	2	4	+2
Gr	5	5	0
C lead	-21	-28	-35

	18-24 (15%)	25-34 (18%)	35-54 (32%)
C	33	24	-9
Lab	52	57	+5
SLD	2	4	+2
SDP	2	4	+2
Gr	8	9	+1
C lead	-19	-33	-3

	55+ (35%)	TU (22%)	Non TU (77%)
C	47	48	+1
Lab	5	6	+1
SLD	2	2	0
SDP	2	2	0
Gr	2	2	0
C lead	-3	-9	-2

	North (37%)	Midlands (25%)	South (38%)
C	31	27	-4
Lab	58	59	+1
SLD	3	4	+1
SDP	1	3	+2
Gr	3	3	0
C lead	-27	-32	-12

	Owner Occ (68%)	Council Ten (24%)	Private Ten (8%)
C	47	41	-6
Lab	40	42	+2
SLD	5	6	+1
SDP	2	4	+2
Gr	4	4	0
C lead	-7	-1	-23

Q: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way...

- The Government is running the country?
- Mrs Thatcher is doing her job as Prime Minister?
- Mr Kinnock is doing his job as leader of the Labour Party?
- Mr Ashdown is doing his job as leader of the Democrats?
- Dr Owen is doing his job as leader of the SDP?

	Govt		Thatcher		Kinnock		Ashdown		Owen	
	Sat %	Dis %	Sat %	Dis %	Sat %	Dis %	Sat %	Dis %	Sat %	Dis %
Jan 18-22	25	69	31	65	43	44	23	36	25	41
Feb 15-19	19	74	29	66	41	44	25	33	25	38
Mar 15-20	16	79	20	76	43	43	28	35	24	45

Q: How would you vote if there was a general election tomorrow? (if undecided or refused)

Q: Which party are you most inclined to support?

	Con	Lab	SLD	SDP	Grn	Oth	C lead
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Jan 18-22	36	48	5	3	5	3	-12
Feb 15-19	34	51	5	4	4	2	-17
Mar 15-20	30	54	6	4	4	2	-24

Q: Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

	Improve	Same	Worse	Net improve
	%	%	%	%
Jan 18-22	17	27	48	-31
Feb 15-19	16	21	54	-38
Mar 15-20	17	18	60	-43

Survey 'shows poll tax principle backed'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

AN OPINION survey commissioned by the Conservative Party is being cited as evidence that most people support the principle of the poll tax. The findings are likely to lead to new Tory assaults on ministers and on the party's publicity machine for not selling the policy better.

The poll, conducted among 968 people by Gallup from March 21-26, found that 71 per cent of those interviewed supported as the fairest principle for a local government tax the idea that "everyone should pay something, but with reductions for the less well-off".

The idea was backed by 76 per cent of Conservative supporters, 69 per cent of

Labour supporters and 80 per cent of Liberal Democrat supporters questioned for the survey, for the Conservative Research Department. Only 6 per cent backed the idea that local government services should be paid for only by ratepayers. Only 12 per cent thought everyone should pay the same amount.

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, said: "This is valuable confirmation of support for the basis of our reforms and the abolition of the rates."

He said: "It is clear that there is strong support for the principles behind the community charge - provided the less

Sunnier forecast for blighted south coast resorts



Rain, rain go away: Bognor Regis this Easter weekend (above and left), missing the crowds which once flocked to the coast for a traditional weekend

SEASIDE resorts in south-east England, whose fortunes have declined because of changing holiday patterns, could be in for a revival. According to a new report, they would be growth points to relieve pressures on other parts of the region.

"Bucket and spade" holidaymakers who used to fill hotels and boarding houses from Easter to September are seriously depleted. Resorts such as Margate, Hastings and Bognor Regis have suffered from easy access to air travel and package holidays.

Some larger towns like Southend, Brighton and Bournemouth have successfully diversified by building factories, offices and conference facilities. However, others remain stuck with little more than run-down cafes and memories of the days when the British public was content to sit in deck-chairs in the rain eating sandwiches and drink-

ing tea from Thermos flasks.

As a result, seasonal unemployment has become year-round, Lord Carnarvon, chairman of the London and South East Regional Planning Conference (Serplan), points out. With few local jobs available, people are forced to commute long distances to London and other large towns.

While the coastal towns have been largely ignored by investors, there has been increasing pressure for development on greenfield sites, particularly to the south and west of London. This has been strongly resisted by local residents, who resent the loss of open countryside and insist that the infrastructure is being overloaded.

The Government has bowed to local opposition, and to the threat of losing support in solidly Conservative seats, by rejecting applications for a new town in Oxfordshire and for other

By John Young

large developments in Berkshire and north Hampshire.

But the latest report by Serplan — a regional planning and transport organization established by the London boroughs and by the county and district councils of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East and West Sussex, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey — calls for an altogether more positive approach to regional planning, and for directing growth to areas where it is most needed. As well as the coastal towns, these are identified as the so-called East London corridor along both banks of the Thames, the area to the north east of the capital and the less prosperous inner London boroughs.

Lord Carnarvon believes it is time to rethink the old concept of what he calls "rings of growth rippling outward from the centre". This, he thinks, leaves the needy inner boroughs starved of investment, puts too much pressure on the green belt and fails to reach some of the outer parts of the region.

The report strongly favours the retention of the green belt, and even its possible extension, but suggests that it could be used to provide more opportunities for sport and leisure compatible with the protection of the countryside. It also welcomes the Countryside Commission's proposal for a new "community forest" east of London.

Lord Carnarvon is particularly concerned that the area immediately adjoining the Channel Tunnel should not be seen as a growth point. So far it has been seen as primarily benefiting the south-east, instead of as a link between the whole of Britain and the Continent.

While much of the passenger traffic will originate in London and the south-east, the tunnel is expected to attract freight largely from the regions, he points out.

The report says that the rail link between London and the tunnel should be seen as part of a much broader strategy for the electrification of the entire InterCity network, with "dedicated" routes for the movement of international freight.

Present provision for a new terminal at Waterloo, an intermediate station at Ashford, Kent, and the use of existing lines for both passenger and freight services are inadequate, it says.

As part of an overall strategy to relieve pressure on the south-east, the Government should also examine how much international air traffic needs to be accommodated within the region, and the scope for development of airports in other parts of Britain.

Improved rail links will still be needed to all four London area airports, as well as to central London and the Docklands, the report says. Greater emphasis should be put on investment in and the improvement of mass transit systems in London and other large towns and cities.

New industrial developments should be located as closely as possible to the rail network, and planning authorities should seek to safeguard sites for this purpose.

The future of the regional economy is inextricably linked with the continued success of London as a major international centre of trade and commerce, the report says. But it draws attention to the "overheating" of some parts of the capital to the detriment of other areas.

A considerable amount of office development, especially in the City and Docklands, has already received planning permission, and can be expected to be built by the mid-1990s, generating 250,000 jobs, it observes.

The benefits could spread to other parts of inner London, but the improvement of public transport and the provision of affordable housing for essential service workers are vital components of regeneration.

Most of the demand for housing can and should be met within existing urban areas, the report concludes. Large new towns are inappropriate in any part of the region, but there may be a case for smaller new settlements with populations of between 3,000 and 15,000, to relieve pressure on established towns and cities.

● *Shaping the South East Planning Strategy: a consultation paper. Serplan, 50-64 Broadway, London SW1H 0DB.*

Lost on the commons of confusion

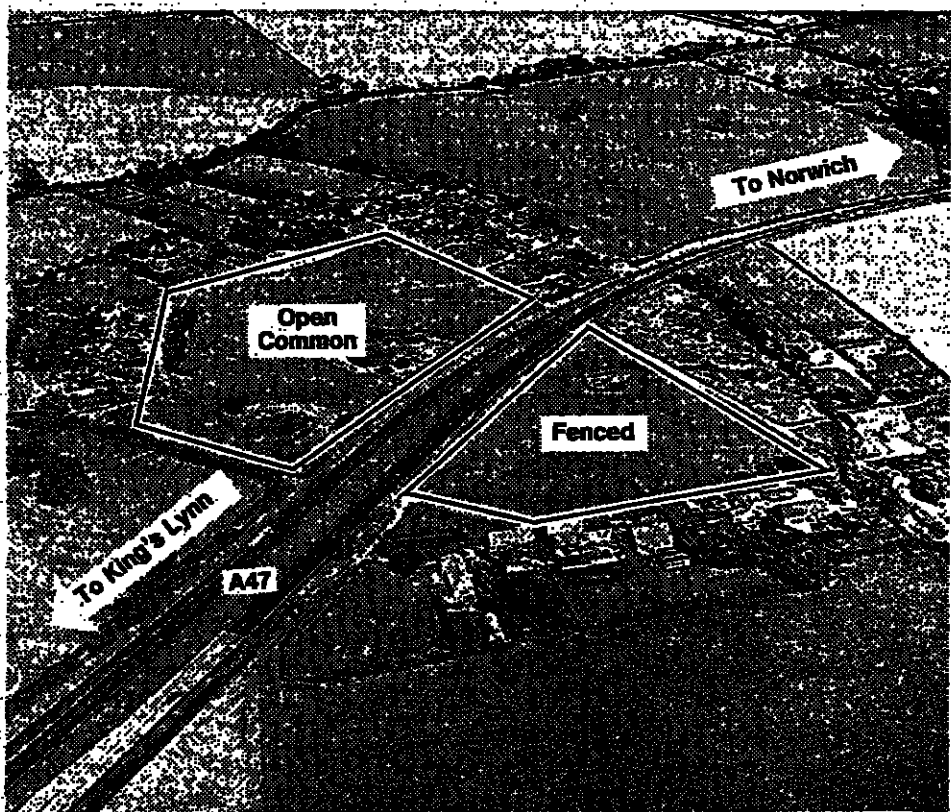
By Alan Franks

THE laws which govern the use of common land and village greens in England and Wales have become such a quagmire of confusion that even the presence of a wooden fence around a few acres of open land can set a small rural community into the throes of bitter dispute.

In the village of Eling Green, in the heart of the Norfolk countryside, one such battle has dragged on for 10 years, since the county council sold both the grazing rights and the ownership of the land. The present owner argues that there is no proven obligation on him to remove the fencing, which was in place when he bought the land, and he has applied to remove the grazing rights from the public register kept by local authorities. A newly formed residents' association, meanwhile, voices concern that if the fence stays then public rights of access might be lost.

But that is only the tip of the dung hill: no sooner do we look at the fine print of the dispute than we enter a shadowy world of early 19th century enclosure awards, the still-valid provisions of the 1926 Law of Property Act, the 16 rights of common acquired by a butcher called Israel Neat and inherited by his tragically insane grand-daughter.

And yet all the complexities are, in a manner of speaking, commonplace, and constitute the main reason why a formidable national alliance of interests is urging the Govern-



A green and divided land: Eling Green, split by a road in the heart of the countryside

ment to regularize the legal position. For although the Conservative Party promised, in its 1987 manifesto, to introduce new legislation based on the recommendations of the Common Land Forum, which had been convened three years earlier, it has not yet found room in its Parliamentary programme. A statement by the Department

of the Environment is expected before the end of April. It was precisely because of tangles such as that at Eling Green that the forum was set up, and it is ironic that its own work should also have become the victim of delay. It is, in effect, a second bite at a problem which was tackled but unresolved by the 1965 Commons Registration Act.

In the opinion of both the Government-funded Countryside Commission and the 2,500-strong Open Spaces Society, that Act, far from safeguarding common land, has amounted to a latter-day enclosures' charter; legal loopholes have allowed many commons to be deregistered and become private land. The commission estimates that in south-east England, where there are huge commercial pressures on open space, some 90 per cent of commons are at risk from deregistration.

Contrary to popular belief, the bulk of common land is not public property, but lies in a patchwork of ownership variously acquired or inherited from the manorial system. Today there are about 8,000 commons in England and Wales, covering an area of about 1.5 million acres, roughly the combined size of Surrey, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. It is also supposed, but again wrongly, that all common land has public access as a matter of course. In fact, this is the case in only 20 per cent of the total area. The rights themselves are, like the laws, a hotchpotch of archaisms, such as herbage (rights of pasture), pannage (grazing pigs on fallen acorns), turbary (cutting peat for fuel) and estovers (collecting wood for fuel or repair, or bracken for animal bedding).

Many correctly listed commons already have been

struck off when the owner has bought out all the common rights. Once removed, the common status is lost for ever, and the likelihood of development or agricultural improvement rises. The commission argues that recent case law casts considerable doubt over this "decommuning" process, and county councils have been advised to treat all such applications with caution. One of the largest casualties in recent times was the 205-acre Cefn Coch Common in Gwynedd, North Wales, deregistered in 1987 by the Shotton Paper Company so that it could be afforested.

Although the Eling Green affair is far from exceptional, each dispute over common land has its own characteristics, and these come in a bewildering variety. This tiny circular hamlet on the A47 between Norwich and King's Lynn is to be the scene of a rare reversal of the norm when, in 1993, the Department of Transport plans to remove the modern stretch of dual carriageway which takes the line of the old toll road across the middle of the common land, and re-route it to the south of the village. This will mean that, instead of a common being taken for development, it will actually revert to public usage and re-establish the integrity of the space bounded by the houses.

The residents' association and the landowner, Mr Kevan Dagg, are united on one opinion — the existing laws are such a minefield that they entail an intolerable amount of time and money for the pursuit of a just solution.

When the Common Land Forum met six years ago, it seemed that an end to the chaos of Dickensian sub-plots was in sight. The mere fact that a grouping had been assembled with such diversity as to include the Country Landowners' Association, the National Farmers' Union and the Ramblers' Association, was alone grounds for optimism. The forum reported in 1986 it had no fewer than 101 proposals to safeguard the commons. The main proposals were all such land should receive immunity from being struck off the register and used for private purposes; that the public should have the right to walk on all the 1.5 million acres; and that the land should be cared for by a network of management associations. The Open Spaces Society has accepted that in return, no new registrations of common land will be sought.

"While Nero fiddled... Rome burned"

Today at Wembley Nelson Mandela will receive the acclaim of a crowd of 72,000 as they enjoy a pop concert tribute to the newly released Vice-President of the ANC.

Meanwhile, in South Africa men, women and children continue to be slaughtered in bloody internecine warfare in Natal — over 3,000 have died in two years — where ANC supporters are in conflict with the local population loyal to the 1.7 million strong Inkatha movement.

Why can you, Mr Mandela, spare three days to attend this pop concert but not two hours to attend peace talks in Natal — talks which you recently unilaterally cancelled?

After 42 years of apartheid and state repression, all South Africans now have the opportunity to create a free and democratic South Africa, but this process will not be an easy one, for without solving the problems of today, the solutions of tomorrow will be impossible.

Across South Africa, recent weeks have seen escalating violence, driven by radical elements within the ANC. Your movement Mr Mandela, is out of control and chronically divided — it is becoming an obstacle to, rather than an instrument of, change.

Your place now, surely, is in Natal, Pretoria and Cape Town — not Wembley, Blackpool and Stockholm?

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Natal toll rises as mood of violence grips South Africa

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

TWENTY people were killed in an upsurge of black faction fighting in a virtual battle zone of South Africa's Natal province during the weekend.

More than 400 people have died in Natal since the beginning of February in the most serious fighting for years between the conservative, Zulu-based Inkatha movement and their rivals in groups allied to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Thousands have fled from their homes to escape the daily carnage of the three-year-old dispute between the two groups, who differ over ways to end Pretoria's apartheid system.

Ten blacks were killed and two injured at Ngubela township near the town of Harding, in apparent fighting for political supremacy in the strident province.

A further five men were killed when shots were fired at a group of funeral-goers at Ngeyeni. The fight was apparently between two gangs over possession of ground, police said in a daily report on political unrest.

Three black women and a man were found burnt to death at townships near Port Shepstone, and the body of a black man shot in the chest was found at Mpumalanga, one of the worst trouble spots in Natal.

But troubles and potential trouble are not confined to Natal. In black townships in the western Cape, the latest sartorial fashion in the growing ranks of the Pan Africanist

Congress (PAC) is T-shirts bearing the slogan: "One settler, one bullet."

In Afrikaans communities throughout the country, the Conservative Party is circulating a petition demanding the Government's resignation for "selling out" the whites. "To hell with a million signatures," thunder the paramilitary right-wing extremists, "give us a million rifles."

In the KwaZulu homeland, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, probably the most powerful single opponent of the ANC, claims overwhelming support for his Inkatha movement. He has said: "The ANC doesn't scare me... if others buckle under the strain of their threats, so be it. I won't, and neither will Inkatha."

While the Government and the ANC unquestionably hold sway over the majority of South Africans, cracks are emerging in their respective power bases which could wreck the negotiating process unless tangible results are achieved quickly.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Constitutional Development, perceives two threats — continuing violence in black communities and a white backlash which could deprive the Government of its reform mandate.

He says the government strategy is to implement unpopular decisions as quickly as possible so that they may be digested, and hopefully accepted, before the next general election in 1994. Another senior Cabinet minister con-

cedes privately that, if an election were held today, the National Party would lose.

Opposition to the Government is apparent in diverse forms. In the Afrikaner heartland of the Orange Free State, white vigilantes have usurped the role of police as self-styled custodians of law and order, and mutter darkly about a coup by rebellious security forces and civil servants. In Cape Province, Afrikaans-medium schools have firmly rejected proposals for opening their doors to all races.

In the black communities, the ANC is under fire from the left and right. The PAC is gaining support for its policy of rejecting negotiations until apartheid is entirely abolished, and intellectuals in the black consciousness movement, loosely affiliated to the Azanian People's Organization, go further.

"Our view is that pressure on the regime should be stepped up on all fronts," says an Azapo official, Mr Shiri Moody. "Only when it has collapsed will we talk about the transfer of power."

Mr Mandela attempted to defuse another potential threat at the weekend when he admitted that ANC dissidents had been tortured in detention camps in Angola, and gave assurances that the practice had been stopped.

"Unfortunately it is true that some of these people had been tortured... we immediately took steps and made sure that these things did not happen again."

Thatcher basks in Bush's approval

From Robin Oakley and Peter Stothard, Hamilton, Bermuda

THE FIRST essential quality for a politician is luck. Margaret Thatcher's legendary good fortune has lately deserted her. In Bermuda, it returned.

The US press, hauled complainingly to the island over the Easter holiday, had been fuelled on television coverage of poll tax and prison riots in what appeared to US viewers as a crumbling, strifetorn Britain. The Iron Lady, they were convinced, had become a has-been and they were preparing to give her a hard time.

Minutes before the joint press conference with Mr Bush, news came through of the Soviet ultimatum to Lithuania and the American press corps game changed to: Let us see if we can re-create Bush the Wimp while she plays it tough.

In the event, Mr Bush proved resolute enough on the scanty information then available, even if Mrs Thatcher produced the stronger words, warning that the good relations with the Soviet Union would end if Lithuania was coerced. But the diversion ensured there were no questions at the international forum focusing on her dire domestic problems.

British officials were delighted with the Bermuda talks, which they called a summit and which Mr Bush called "part of a continuing series of consultations."

As Mrs Thatcher reported: "We discussed just about everything and agreed on just about everything." However, President Bush, who opened proceedings with a laconic 40-minute "presentation", confined himself to listening when they got around to South African sanctions and the Vietnamese boat people.



All smiles again: Mrs Thatcher finds relief in Bermuda as she and President Bush agreed on "just about everything"

The British side was pleased that Mr Bush went out of his way to underscore the continuing existence of the "special relationship" and that he emphasized the status of the occasion by bringing along a massively heavyweight team, including the Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, his Chief of Staff, Mr John Sununu, and his top experts on European and NATO strategy — so many that they could not be accommodated at the

lunch table without making it dangerously lop-sided. Mr Bush, perhaps not surprisingly, is not taking the present level of the opinion polls to mean that Mrs Thatcher can be ignored as a has-been.

The British side, for its part, is learning to live with Mr Baker, previously resented as an ex-Treasury man with a world view over-coloured by the role of Germany and Japan as economic heavyweights. British officials

emphasized his role in the talks and Mrs Thatcher enthusiastically backed his call for a wider political role for NATO, receiving warm endorsement in return from Mr Bush for her ideas about developing the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The fuss about the special relationship is overdone: what Bermuda did was to unlock a few muscles. It eased the tension out of Anglo-American relations after recent twitches on the pace of German reunification and European integration.

Mrs Thatcher has learned that she will never be able to browbeat Mr Bush as she could President Reagan, and she has accepted that America needs and wants to keep open a number of special avenues lines to Europe, not all of which lead to London.

The Americans have been reminded that the world view from London remains instinctively close to the one from Washington. On all main policy questions there has been a convergence in recent months. For a politician as beleaguered currently as Mrs Thatcher, the photo-opportunities under the uncharacteristically grey Bermudian skies were worth uncountable sums. That was emphasized when she cancelled her Saturday morning interviews, pleading a sore throat which had cleared up by the evening.

This was not just a matter of ensuring that she did not allow herself to be pushed too far on Lithuania or to be tested on the remaining differences of emphasis about future NATO armaments. It was a sign she had secured what she wanted in Bermuda. With Mr Bush repaying in spades her past courtesies to him as a Vice-President struggling for recognition there was no need to put a gloss on the prints.

Both sides had managed to avoid detailed probing on the question of nuclear weapons in a united Germany. The

President brought a warning of the impossibility of further pressure that the Lance missile could be modernized. But Downing Street had been forewarned and the issue was not brought to a head.

An early NATO summit, so that the form of NATO consultation be maintained, was an acceptable outcome for the Americans once it was clear that Mrs Thatcher was not going to fight a lost cause.

A further tricky question was the modernization of other nuclear weapons — artillery shells and the tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM) — and whether these can be deployed in Germany. TASM has the advantage in German eyes in that, as replacement for free-fall bombs in aircraft, it cannot be portrayed as a weapon which can hit only other Germans.

But German pressure against all nuclear weapons is great. Mrs Thatcher, while keen that US TASM-equipped planes be not withdrawn across the Atlantic, is also concerned that they not be confined solely to bases in Britain. Intensifying discussions can be expected on this score, particularly at the NATO Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Canada next month.

There is also an important subsidiary issue about the choice of TASM missile. If a French version is purchased instead of one of the two US models, will it be allowed to be tested in the US underground sites in Nevada? The British, especially the newly environmentalist Mrs Thatcher, may be reluctant to be associated with a French weapon which will be tested in the atmosphere.

None of these problems was allowed to cloud the Bermuda air. They remained beneath the surface for another and less delicate day. Mrs Thatcher was happy to rest on what she had achieved.

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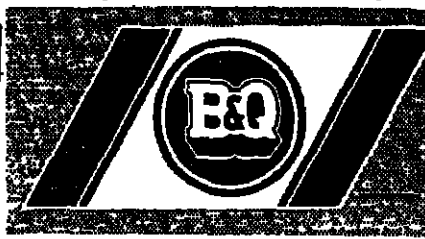
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NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

Brazil young live street nightmare

From Louise Byrne, Rio de Janeiro

MARCOS is 11 years old and often sleeps in a telephone box in the southern part of Rio de Janeiro. A polio victim, he has a heavy limp and a cheeky smile which often gives way to aggression.

After five years on the streets, he is as hard as nails and wary of everyone from the police to social workers. Life at the bottom is tough and not getting any easier.

A book to be published tomorrow here claims that at least one child a day is murdered, with persecution and torture of minors rife. With the support of Unicef and other agencies, the author, a journalist, Gilberto Dimenstein, spent three months travelling through Brazil talking to street children, their families, judges, police, psychologists and the authorities.

He concludes that even one child murdered a day is a conservative estimate, with many deaths caused by police-run death squads.

"Families often do not report a death for fear of reprisals and the existence of clandestine cemeteries also makes it difficult to gather accurate figures," says Senhor Dimenstein.

In his book, *The Boys' War*, Senhor Dimenstein documents the case of a Brazilian man forced to leave the country after witnessing and speaking out against a death squad murder carried out on the outskirts of São Paulo.

Many others, from ordinary individuals to a bishop, a state governor and human rights activists, have also been

threatened. At least seven million children live or work on the streets of Brazil. For most it is a nightmare life only alleviated by the camaraderie of other street children.

Girls often end up as prostitutes. In the north-eastern city of Recife, a psychologist, Senhora Ana Vasconcelos, spoke of policemen who kicked the stomachs of pregnant girls, often inducing abortions.

Just days before Senhor Dimenstein's book is to be released, a Brazilian newspaper has also released the names of members of 15 police-run death squads acting on the outskirts of Rio. The authorities have yet to act on the list.

Some street children are involved in drug trafficking. Those who use the children know that, as minors, they cannot be sent to prison if caught.

In Rio de Janeiro the victims of pickpockets are most often tourists. Local political pressure recently had one judge to announce that all children under the age of six would be rounded up and taken to government institutions while attempts were made to reconcile them with their families.

However, the outcry against the ruling was so great that the action was suspended. Groups working with street children claimed that to round them up in such a way was to "treat them like dogs". Moreover, there have been claims of maltreatment by government institutions.

Graveyard lesson in the strict values of a Baltic past

By Anatol Lieven

LOOKING at one's own name on a gravestone is a slightly ambiguous experience. I first saw mine on a block of granite beside a ruined church in the Latvian countryside, on a cold day in February with black crows swooping between the grey sky and the bare collective farm fields.

It is hard to tell today exactly where in his family graveyard at Mezotne, my great-uncle, Anatole Lieven, of the Russian Imperial Guard and the White Army of the Baltic, is buried. In an act of vandalism with deep historical motivations, the graveyard was destroyed after the war by vandals from the Russian settler population.

Most of the monuments have been smashed. Explosives seem to have been used to blow open the vaults — possibly on the mistaken assumption that the Baltic nobility was buried with its treasures.

My great-uncle chose his own gravestone from a natural, solid block of granite which he saw beside the road and

asked his coachman to bring home. It has survived the passage of time and the violence of the enemy, but has been knocked from its base, which is now lost among the weeds.

The evidence of a concentration on death reflected in the deliberate choice of a tombstone is not untypical of the Baltic German nobility. Back in the thirteenth century, as the German crusader knights poured into the region, slaughtering in the name of Christ, the pagan tribal chieftain, who was my family's ultimate ancestor, made the wise but inglorious decision to change his faith and save his lands.

The name Lieven is identical with the Estonian surname of Liiv, and reflects a common ancestry in the Livonian tribes (the old province of Livonia covered what is now southern Estonia and northern Latvia). But whereas the other Liivs became serfs under the German nobility, the von Lievens joined the latter's ranks, in the first of a series of switches of allegiance which ended with a thump in 1917, when my grandfather

refused an offer to serve as an engineer under the Bolsheviks and my great-uncle formed his brigade of the White Army.

In converting to Christianity, my family exchanged the perfectly rational worship of oaks and bears for that of the Christian God. Born in the savagery of the Northern Crusade, the pose he adopted in the Baltic was always fairly gloomy, and after the descendants of the knights converted to Protestantism, he became very bad-tempered indeed.

The severe Protestantism of the Baltic Germans has driven many of them over the years into neuroses familiar from the films of Ingmar Bergman. Some of us escape it by atheism, socialism or hedonism, or some combination of all three, but it usually gets us in the end.

As Anatole Lieven's brother, my grandfather, Prince Paul Lieven, dying in London under the impression that he was back in the Siberia of his youth, correctly asked: "What is the point of my going to heaven, when all the rest of my family and best friends will be in hell?"

One of the more useful aspects of this

religion's influence, however, has been the Protestant work ethic. Communicated to the Latvian and Estonian peoples, this tradition has been counteracted over the past 50 years by the effects of Soviet communism, and the question of which tradition wins is crucial to the well-being of the Baltic republics.

All three estates which belong to my grandfather and great-uncle still reflect the social discipline shared by the Baltic Germans and the Latvians, and it was this which made visiting them a moving experience.

The main rooms of the house at Mezotne are being restored as a museum, with their original paint and plaster work, by the agricultural research station based there. It is hoped that the house will attract many tourists.

At my grandfather's town of Smiltene, the house has been split into flats, but the hospital, kindergarten, power station, brewery and railway line that he built are still standing, though not all are in use. The hospital has 135 beds, and is the best-run medical establishment that I

have seen in the Soviet Union. In the basement of the children's clinic is a small museum, with photographs and fine examples of local leather work and carpentry. The rooms were designed as a nuclear shelter, but seven years ago the hospital's director, Dr Janis Krumals, told me: "We decided it was all nonsense and we put it to some use."

The synagogue that my grandfather had built for the town — together with Protestant and Orthodox churches — survived the Nazis only to be destroyed by the Communists. Such acts of vandalism stem in a way from the traditions of Russian peasant backwardness which the Baltic nobility was required to combat as the most honest and beautiful part of the Russian imperial ruling elite — though one which lacked the cultural brilliance of the Russian nobility, and was in many ways deeply boring when not boorish.

The Russian elite's lack of success in changing Russia was largely due to its having been perceived by the people as "exploiters", but there was also the fact

that many of the changes it was trying to introduce were seen as culturally alien by the mass of the population. It was not for nothing that peasants in some parts of the western borderlands used to refer to the Devil as "the German Doctor".

Russians too, however, have for some time been aware of how much was lost by the destruction of the pre-1917 educated classes, including the nobility. Another ancestor believed to be buried at Mezotne is General Prince Carl Christoph Lieven, Minister of Education under Tsar Nicholas I. Before this, he was Rector of the University of Dorpat (in Estonian, Tartu).

In a Soviet history of the university, written under Brezhnev, I found him described as follows: "Against the general background, Carl von Lieven may be considered a relatively moderate reactionary... in the final analysis, his restoration proved beneficial to the university, as thanks to his connections in St Petersburg, he managed considerably to improve its financial state." There are worse epitaphs.

Moscow's economic weapon poses new threat to Lithuania

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

AFTER the huge demonstration nine days ago in support of the Lithuanian government and independence, there can be little doubt that most of the Lithuanian population is solidly behind the Lithuanian administration in its defiance of Moscow.

This marks a change from the first fortnight or so after the declaration of independence, when suspicion of the motives of the Sąjūdis leadership and regard for Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the Communist leader, had not been elected president, led many Lithuanians to take a surprisingly apathetic stance towards independence.

Since then, however, every move that Moscow has made seems only to have strengthened the position of President Landsbergis and his colleagues. It seems unlikely that, unless near-starvation breaks out, the Lithuanian population would abandon its government. What is, however, entirely possible — and seems to be part of Moscow's plans — is that economic misery will lead to increased tension between the Lithuanians and the Russian and Polish minorities, most of whom are at the bottom of the economic pile here.

The use of this weapon by Moscow was anticipated long before the declaration of independence on March 11.

However, despite brave talk of importing oil from Sweden and Denmark, the government seems to have made no effective contingency plans — possibly because, given Lithuania's total dependence on

Soviet imports, there are no plans which can be made. Since Lithuania cannot pay world prices for oil and other raw materials, the West would have to mount what would be in effect a relief effort to bring fuel into Lithuania — and it is by no means clear that the Soviet Union would allow this to happen.

Lithuania's only port of Klaipėda is incapable of taking big oil tankers, and an attempt to supply through Klaipėda might involve a struggle, both with the Soviet authorities and with the local Russian minority.

Lithuania's only international frontier, that with Poland, is under the control of Soviet border forces.

This leaves open the possibility of supplies being brought in through the much bigger ports of Riga and Tallinn, situated in the friendly republics of Latvia and Estonia. This possibility raises the question of economic co-operation between the three Baltic republics. This was envisaged in the declaration on Thursday of the creation of a "Baltic" market, but for a long time to come this is likely to remain in embryonic form.

A mere 7 per cent of Estonia's exports goes to its neighbour, Latvia, and 6 per cent of its imports comes from there. The figures for trade with Lithuania are 3 and 4 per cent respectively.

In agricultural produce and clothing, the Baltic republics are in a strong position. According to Dr Edgar Savisaar, the Estonian Prime

Minister, the Baltic republics taken together produce 90 per cent of the foodstuffs that they need, and 70 per cent of consumer goods — though in both cases, this seems to envisage a fairly basic level of supply.

Where the Baltic economies, both individually and collectively, are still very weak, is in the level of their trade outside the Soviet Union and in their lack of raw materials. The figures for international trade for all three republics hover around 5 per cent of the total, with the rest going to other Soviet republics.

The governments are attempting to set up separate trade agreements with individual Soviet republics outside the Baltic.

Another central element in Moscow's economic hold on the Baltic is the region's lack of raw materials — though, of course, as the example of Japan and Italy show, this need not be an economic drawback in the long run. For the moment, however, the republics will have to go on importing most of their oil, steel and other raw materials from the Soviet Union, since they cannot afford to pay world market prices for them.

The Soviet threat to demand hard currency in return for these goods is one of the big economic weapons that Moscow can use against independence.

Estonia is slightly better placed in this respect than the other two republics, since the vast oil-shale deposits of north-eastern Estonia provide the republic with most of its electricity, with a considerable surplus left over for export. These exports, however, are tied up in contracts with the Leningrad region and with Finland. The other two republics produce no oil or gas of their own, although Lithuanian oil refineries process a considerable quantity imported from the Soviet Union. Latvia and Estonia both have the disadvantage of higher concentrations of traditional, large-scale heavy industry, whereas Lithuania has a lead in computers and in modern technology.

Pope urges caution

ROME The Pope, speaking to an estimated 90,000 people assembled in St Peter's Square for the Easter Mass yesterday, asked that "the aspirations of the Lithuanian nation be confirmed through a respectful and understanding dialogue" (Paul Bompard writes).

This call for caution is also a further indication that the Holy See is willing to mediate in possible solutions to the

Lithuanian crisis. On Friday the Pontiff sent a message to Lithuania saying that "in these hours of historical trepidation", he feels "closer than ever to the hopes of the Lithuanian people". He also received Mr Vadim Zagladin, an international affairs adviser to President Gorbachov. Lithuania is the second most important centre of Catholicism in the Soviet Union after the Ukraine.

French discover tragedy of 'unwilling soldiers'

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

THE tragic story of how some 10,000 young Frenchmen, forced to serve with the German Army during the Second World War, came to perish in a Soviet prison camp is to be revealed in a new book published here this week.

In tracing the fate of these *malgré-nous* (the unwilling soldiers), it tells a sombre page of history that has remained largely unknown to people in France today.

All those who died were from the Alsace and Lorraine regions, which were overrun by Germany in 1940 and formally annexed to the Third Reich (as opposed to the military occupation imposed on the rest of France). They were part of a force of an estimated 130,000 men conscripted into the Wehrmacht in the summer of 1942. After training, the vast majority were sent to fight on the Russian front, participating in some of the most ferocious battles as Hitler's forces were gradually thrown back.

According to Pierre Rigoulot, the author of *La Tragédie des Malgré-Nous*, at least 20,000 of the French contingent were killed in action and some 15,000 either surrendered to the Red Army or were picked up after deserting in the hope of making their way home. Most of these captives were sent to Camp

188 at Tambov, a dot on the map some 280 miles south of Moscow.

By any standards Tambov was a hell on earth, writes Mr Rigoulot, where the French prisoners were to endure "a long calvary", suffering grievously from the cold, severe hunger and beatings, epidemics of typhus and dysentery, and the effects of forced labour. Caught between their Russian captors and their former German commanders, they were also subjected to communist propaganda.

When the war in Europe ended, the French who had survived Tambov were forced to wait until autumn 1945 before the Soviet authorities finally granted permission for them to head for home in three large convoys.

On arrival, they found that some 90,000 of their fellow *malgré-nous* had already returned: among them were men who had been captured in German uniform but were subsequently allowed to join the Allied forces.

By a cruel, if predictable, irony, the survivors of Tambov were received back in France with the utmost official suspicion, regarded in military circles as potentially subversive elements, doubly damned by their Wehrmacht service and captivity in Russian hands. Many of them had

to undergo another year of investigation and questioning before being allowed back into civilian life.

M Rigoulot's book seems certain to stir disturbing recollections among survivors of the *malgré-nous*, especially those who lived through a terrible ordeal at Tambov.

Understandably, memories of that era live on among older people in Alsace and Lorraine, sometimes colouring their attitude towards the changes now sweeping the Germanies into reunification.



President Landsbergis praying at Easter Mass yesterday in the Vilnius Cathedral

Leipzig takes Goethe out for a traditional Easter Day stroll

From Anne McElvoy, Leipzig

WHETHER Goethe's Mephistopheles was abroad yesterday, tempting the modern-day Fausts during their traditional Easter Day stroll in the Leipzig sun, was difficult to tell in the crush.

If so, he had left his magic carpet in the underworld and whizzed into town in his stretched Mercedes along with the hordes of West German visitors rediscovering the East for Easter.

The Easter walk scene in *Faust* is one of the set pieces in the armoury of every German schoolchild in East or West. It is also a custom taken very seriously by the Germans who to this day regard stepping out on Easter Sunday as the first rite of summer.

The more learned or pretentious could be spotted carrying dog-eared copies of the most famous play in German literature with them and reciting the monologue "Freud from ice

are the streams and rivers, by the sacred life-giving glance of spring..." to their bored offspring.

Despite abolishing Easter as a holiday, the Communists never rooted out the Easter walk and the holiday atmosphere in Leipzig this year was unmistakable, with hordes of West German visitors rediscovering the East.

East Germany television broadcast the Pope's Easter message for the first time and the Bishop of Thuringia declared himself "amazed and delighted" by the increase in churchgoers. In Berlin the first East-West Easter egg hunt was held for under-five.

The holiday weekend was an irresistible opportunity for West German traders to bring their wares to the East. In Leipzig's market-place, stallholders were hawking everything from West German sweets to the paper back

wisdom of L. Ron Hubbard and the Maharishi which drew curious crowds to part with their Ostmarks at four times the usual cover price.

Goethe preferred to carouse away his student days in the beery underground haven of Auerbach's Keller on the marketplace and would have found his old haunt again without difficulty. But, like the locals, he might have had a tussle with his thirst whether to sup East German beer at a mark for half a litre or try the latest West German import of bottled Pils at four times the price.

"Roll on the currency union," said the young man, counting out his marks dolefully, "I am getting used to this luxury too fast." Almost all the miniature luxuries of prosperous West Germany are now available in the Leipzig stores, but East German salaries have failed to keep pace

with the sudden arrival of choice.

The bright posters in the town centre which have replaced the lugubrious declarations of socialist faith now announce a "city with a future", but its belt of near-derelect industries which accounts for the nickname Smog City are likely to be the first casualties when the currency union forces unproductive factories to close.

The first casualty of the flood of West German products has been one of the country's biggest chocolate factories outside Leipzig which has made 500 workers redundant. It has not proved equal to the chocolate challenge from over the border.

The shelves were stripped of Western Easter eggs days ago. The East German variety that frequently breaks the teeth has been forgotten in the softer delights of the West.

Victims of drug lords unearthed

Bogotá — Colombian police have found nine bodies in two common graves amid reports that up to 52 bodies could be buried in the area. All are victims of drug barons.

Police found the bodies at two farms in the north-western province of Córdoba. The farms are owned by "front men" for Fidel Castano, who is suspected of being military leader of the Medellín cocaine cartel. (Reuters)

Hashish haul

Amsterdam — Dutch police have seized cardboard boxes packed with hashish worth £3 million in Hilversum and arrested five Moroccan residents. (Reuters)

Aid record

Dhaka — Bangladesh is seeking a record £1.5 billion in international aid and is confident of receiving the full amount at a donors' meeting in Paris this week. (Reuters)

Troops clash

Manila — Communist and government forces clashed in the northern Philippine province of Cagayan. One soldier and 11 rebels were killed. (AP)

Atoll 'safe'

Mururoa — A group of French scientists who have just visited France's nuclear testing site on Mururoa atoll in the Pacific say they are convinced the risks of radiation are infinitesimal. (AFP)

UFO craze

Brussels — Belgian look-out teams spent Easter hunting for UFOs after reports of sightings in the south of the country over the last four months. (Reuters)

East Berlin's justice minister faces flak

From Girard Steichen, Bonn



Herr Wunsche: President over "repressive" laws

HERR KURT Wunsche, East Germany's new Justice Minister, presided over the drafting and implementation of laws that legitimized communist terror before he left the same office nearly two decades ago, a West German newspaper reported yesterday.

The newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* said that Herr Wunsche, who was sworn in last Thursday, served as Justice Minister "during one of the most repressive periods in the GDR's history", adding that West German Free Democrats last February successfully waged a campaign to keep Herr Wunsche from becoming head of the GDR. Liberals because of his tainted past.

Herr Wunsche served as Justice

Minister from the mid-1960s to 1972, when he resigned for "health reasons". *Welt am Sonntag* said that during his tenure tough laws were enacted that were designed specifically to consolidate total communist control and "whose substance provided the foundation for the wholesale denial of human rights".

Among those laws were provisions that called for heavy prison sentences for those convicted of crimes against the state. Until the removal of the communists last October, protesters were prosecuted under a broad criminal category of "anti-state agitation".

"During Herr Wunsche's first period in office, thousands of people were prosecuted and jailed on political charges," the newspaper said. A typical example was that of a 22-year-old East German man who was sentenced to

eight years' imprisonment in 1966 for carrying a placard that demanded the release of all political prisoners.

"Herr Wunsche also stood at the head of the Justice Ministry in 1968 when a new constitution was rammed through with the help of a savagely manipulated peoples' referendum," the newspaper said. The text of the new constitution "turned individual human rights into a farce by defining them within the context of the leading role and ideology of the communist party".

Herr Wunsche resigned his post after a political row with Herr Erich Honecker, the communist leader, the newspaper said. After his resignation, Herr Wunsche taught constitutional court law at Humboldt University in East Berlin. He remained a leader in the Liberal Democratic party of the GDR.

Hindus flee as conflict sharpens in Kashmir

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

TENS of thousands of Hindus have fled from the Muslim secessionist uprising in the Kashmir Valley, as the conflict there turns ominously into a battle between the powerful forces of Hindu and Muslim fundamentalism.

The exodus adds a new dimension to the separatist struggle, which never assumed religious overtones in its previous big eruptions in 1953 and 1964. Half the 120,000 Hindus have already gone, and the remainder are leaving.

Their flight has been accompanied by the imposition of Muslim fundamentalism by militant organizations that now control daily life in the valley. The traditional observance of liberal Sufism is over.

At the same time, Hindu hardliners are demanding that the special status granted to Kashmir when it joined the Indian union should be abolished. Non-Kashmiris, for example, are not allowed to own property in the state. The Indian Government is resisting the demand.

Talk of war with Pakistan continued over the weekend, although senior government officials in Islamabad and Delhi said privately that there was no immediate expectation of large-scale combat. Both sides, however, might find it necessary to mount a display of cross-border aggression to satisfy domestic political compulsions.

Cross-border incidents have occurred almost daily for years and are monitored by United Nations observers operating on both sides of the 1947 line of control that

divides Kashmir. With so many troops freshly amassed in the region, any one of those incidents could blow up into a serious confrontation.

Pakistan yesterday denied Indian claims that large numbers of soldiers were marching towards the border. As for Indian claims that there was a "red alert" on airfields, an official said: "Airfields are always kept alert."

Both Islamabad and Delhi are under international pressure to defuse the crisis, particularly from the United States. An Indian official directly involved in policy-making said yesterday he did not expect war in the immediate future. But the danger of conflict could intensify if India senses that it is losing control of the valley. The summer could be critical, when the absence of a tourist trade will bring more economic hardship and further inflame public unrest.

Even now Indian security forces, for all their might, are barely able to impose order. They control the uprising by a stifling military presence and non-stop curfews. All towns in the valley echo with calls for militancy from the loudspeakers of mosques.

India may be deliberately "talking up" the danger of war with Pakistan to justify an even greater military presence later in the year to try to wipe out militant organizations. Many subversives will undoubtedly flee to Pakistan if that happens, where they will enjoy a safe haven under Islamabad's policy of moral and political support for the uprising.

Muslim militants, restrained in Kashmir by constant curfews, are starting to strike at "soft" Hindu targets in towns outside Kashmir, in a tactic calculated to inflame communal strife.

Hindu anger, it is calculated, will emphasize Kashmir's sense of separateness from the rest of India. Security forces believe that terrorist atrocities will move increasingly across the border, particularly into Delhi and Bombay. The campaign has grave implications for Muslim-Hindu relations in the northern Hindi heartland, even though non-Kashmiri Muslims have never supported Kashmiri separatism. Indeed, they feel no great empathy for their Muslim brothers in the remote northern outpost.

Before the exodus from the valley, 4 per cent of the population was Hindu. More than 40,000 Hindus have flooded into Jammu, the second city of Kashmir, which has a Hindu majority. Others have joined relatives in different parts of the country, leaving behind homes and possessions.

Kashmiri Hindus, known as Pundits, are literate and comparatively prosperous. Many held good jobs in the state government — a fact that Muslims have long resented. Most Hindus live in Srinagar, the capital, where large numbers of middle-class houses stand abandoned in testimony to the mass exodus. Many Pundits are shopkeepers, hoteliers, tour operators — well-to-do people who have dominated much of the valley's commercial life.

Sikhs are also uneasy. There are 30,000 of them in the valley, mostly shopkeepers and farmers, and some have started leaving.

A new organization called Mujahidin Kashmir has claimed responsibility for a bomb blast last Wednesday on a suburban train in Bombay — the first indication that the violent campaign was being carried across the border. The group also said it carried out bomb blasts in police stations in Delhi.

Nepalese call on government to go

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THOUSANDS of Nepalese took to the streets yesterday to demand the immediate dismissal of the pro-King Government and the dissolution of the partyless *panchayat* system that has run the country for the past 30 years.

King Birendra is clearly heading for a serious confrontation with political parties as he struggles to hang on to some of his powers after agreeing eight days ago to allow multi-party democracy.

Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand, the Prime Minister, fled for cover after his car was stoned when he attempted to leave the Royal Nepal Academy building in Kathmandu. He had been in the building

for talks with junior officials of political parties about an eight-point package of demands presented last week to the royal palace.

A 10,000-strong crowd, waving the flags of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front, refused to let him leave the building, saying that he must first announce the Government's resignation.

The decision by opposition parties to send young second-ranking officials to the talks was a calculated insult to the Prime Minister and his negotiating team.

Initially the parties had refused to send anybody unless the Government was first disbanded.



Police in Tiananmen Square arrest a man who tried to mourn Hu Yaobang; he was later claimed to be 'mentally ill'.

Sole mourner for disgraced Hu arrested

From Catherine Simpson, Peking

NONE of his Communist Party colleagues mourned Hu Yaobang publicly on the first anniversary of his death yesterday. The one man who tried was taken away by police and declared mentally ill.

Tiananmen Square was open to the public, but the Memorial to the Revolutionary Heroes — which was last year decked with wreaths in homage to Hu within days of his death — was cordoned off by paramilitary police.

The national media yesterday made no mention of Hu, who was still a Politburo member when he died. He had been ousted in January, 1987, from his official position as General Secretary and his unofficial position as heir to Mr Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader.

He had offended hardliners in the leadership by his tolerance of liberal and independent thought. By those same qualities, he had attracted the affection of many intellectuals and students.

The sole mourner, a well-dressed man in his forties, walked across Tiananmen Square pulling a luggage trolley piled with bags. He approached the memorial and was shooed away by paramilitary troops. Clearly dis-

appointed, he pulled a white flower from a plastic bag, pinned it to his sleeve and then produced a large white wreath.

A crowd grew around him, reading the dedication to "the heroes who died for democracy and freedom, and to Comrade Hu Yaobang".

Describing himself as a scientist from the south-western province of Guizhou, he said to foreign journalists: "I had to beg my way to Peking. I am here to mourn Comrade Hu Yaobang."

Asked if he was afraid of arrest, he gestured at his luggage trolley, and said calmly: "I have come prepared. I have brought everything with me."

As if on cue, uniformed police apparently alerted by plainclothes police came over to lead him away. They scuffed, and the man from Guizhou protested repeatedly that he was a scientist. In an attempt to convince them, he opened his briefcase, which was full of mounted rock samples. After a few minutes he went calmly with the police, who later returned a confiscated film of the incident shot by Cable News Network (CNN), and declared the man "mentally ill".

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Moves to replace Peres as coalition schemes founder

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

WITH Mr Shimon Peres, the veteran Labour Party leader, fast running out of time to form a left-of-centre Israeli Government, the prospects for breaking the stranglehold of the right on Israeli politics are looking slim.

"Peres's days as Labour leader may be numbered," one left-wing journalist said. He added: "If Peres cannot do it, we shall have to find somebody who can — and soon."

At Twentieth Century Books in Tel Aviv, and at the nearby Café Tamar, the atmosphere was one of almost unrelieved gloom at the weekend. Both are opposite the offices of Davar, the leading Israeli left-wing daily paper, and both are sounding boards of the Israeli left.

In the short term, the crisis arises because of the 60-60 deadlock in the Knesset (parliament). On Thursday the Labour Party leadership bureau is to meet to "decide on future steps" after the collapse of Mr Peres's attempts to gain a decisive majority over the right-wing Likud, led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, by recruiting a combination of Orthodox

religious parties and embittered defectors from Likud to add to existing support from left-wing groups.

None the less, the mounting campaign to "dump Peres" had already begun yesterday as Labour's coalition negotiating team, made up of senior former ministers, met to consider its strategy over the next few days.

Only last Wednesday Mr Peres sat in the Knesset waiting to present a new government designed to revive the US plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. Yet within minutes his coalition had fallen apart. Two key members of Agudat Israel, the religious party which is closest to Labour, suddenly decided they could not support a government which might withdraw from the "sacred territory" of the occupied West Bank and trade "land for peace".

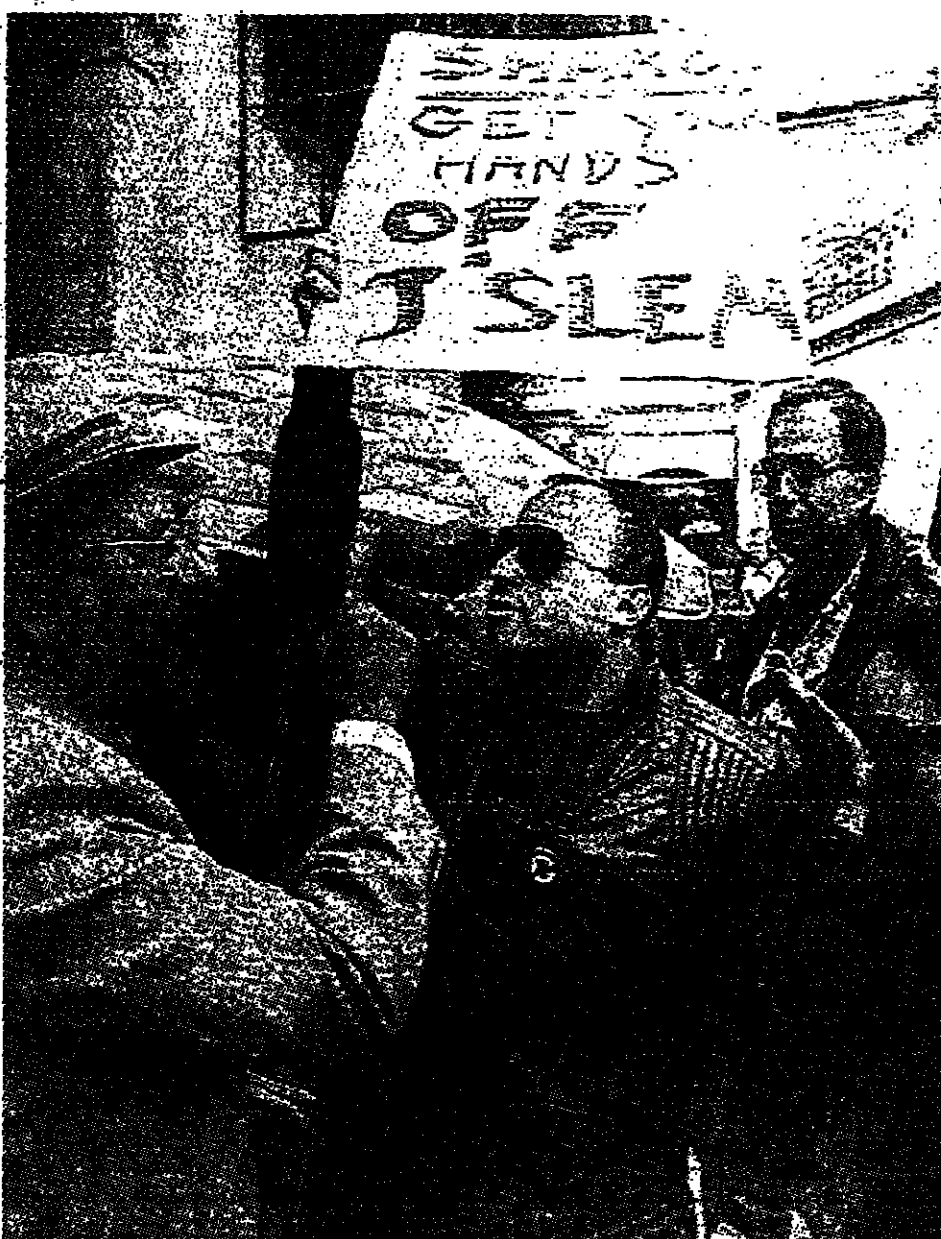
But the crisis within Labour goes much deeper. Some trace it to the inexorable decline of the Zionist socialist philosophy which dominated Israel in its pioneering years, a time when almost the entire pol-

itical establishment was European in origin and left-wing in outlook. Since then Labour has lost much of its former constituency as Israel has shifted to the right, partly because of the growing power of ultra-Orthodox religious parties, partly because of demographic changes.

Likud and its allies have found support among many new immigrants to Israel, including both the Soviet Jews and Sephardic Jews from Arab countries.

In this prevailing right-wing atmosphere, it is easily forgotten that the left does still have influence. Yesterday, as Christian pilgrims from around the world celebrated Easter Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City, Peace Now, the left-wing Israeli organization, demonstrated in solidarity with Arab Christians against the attempt by 150 Jewish settlers to move into premises in the Christian quarter.

If Mr Peres is "dumped", the man most likely to succeed him is Mr Yitzhak Rabin, who according to some Labour sources has merely been biding his time.



A left-wing Israeli protesting at a Jewish settlement in Jerusalem's Christian quarter

Plea for Arab unity as Iraq defies Israelis

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

IN THE wake of the controversy over its "Big Bertha" gun, Iraq is now claiming the capacity to deter an attack by Israel and making further moves to rally Arab support.

An Iraqi general was quoted yesterday as saying Israel would not risk attempting to repeat its 1981 attack, which destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, because Baghdad could now strike back.

"Israel will not dare to do that again, because we have the deterrent," Major-General Aliwan Aboushi, an Air Force officer, was quoted as saying in the United Arab Emirates armed forces magazine *Al-Watan*. The general did not disclose what the deterrent was but, in rapid succession in the past fortnight, Iraq has been caught attempting to import trigger devices that could detonate nuclear bombs, boasted of a chemical weapons capacity capable of destroying half of Israel, and been accused of trying to develop a long-range artillery system capable of launching satellites or weapons into low Earth orbit. It has also been accused of developing biological weapons.

Al-Watan quoted another senior officer, General Monzer Ibrahim as saying that Iraq had succeeded in closing a gap in military technology between the Arabs and Israel. Iraq had entered the field of strategic weapons, he said without elaborating.

With concern heightened in the West and Israel over both Iraq's military build-up and its belligerent stance, the move to intensify Arab support was made by Mr Sadi Mehdi Saleh, the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, who said invitations had been sent to members of all Arab parliaments — including its long-standing rival, Syria — to a meeting in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Mr Saleh said that the meeting would discuss "challenges posed by Israeli threats to Iraq's scientific and technical advancement". A unified Arab position was necessary to face up to what he called the challenges to Iraq's national security and attempts to interfere in its internal affairs.

To boost patriotic fervour, meetings of compliant political parties, professional organizations and trade unions have been called this

week to focus attention on the issue and Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, has called for an Arab summit "to define the required measures to counter Jewish immigration into the occupied territory and Israeli threats against Iraq and the Arab nation."

Iraq's military potential has become the focus of international concern over the proliferation of chemical, biological and missile technology in the Middle East.

Last week NBC television news quoted US intelligence sources as saying that Iraq had developed powerful biological weapons. They said that Iraq was using an ultra-modern plant equipped with technology from West Europe to make weapons from anthrax, typhoid and cholera bacteria and viruses.

As a result of the Gulf War and with the assistance of Egypt, Iraq has established a considerable armaments industry of its own. It has extended the range of its Soviet-supplied Scud B ballistic missiles and in January displayed 12 of them.

In December it launched a three-stage rocket and tested two missiles with a range of 1,200 miles. Iraq has a million men under arms with 850,000 paramilitary reserves to call upon. It has 5,500 main battle tanks and 1,000 armoured infantry fighting vehicles. The Iraqi Air Force has two squadrons of bombers and 17 squadrons of fighters.

Israel is widely believed to have a nuclear capability which it could deliver with its Jericho 2 surface-to-surface missiles which have a range of 1,000 miles and its Jericho 1 missiles which have a 270-mile range.



Mr Tariq Aziz: Proposal to hold an Arab summit

Americans laud killer of black subway mugger

From Charles Bremner, New York

NEW YORK detectives searched in vain over the weekend for a middle-aged white man who shot dead one of a pack of black subway train robbers, an action that has earned him instant status as folk hero and private praise from the police.

The shooting beneath the streets of Brooklyn was the third this year in which a subway passenger has killed a robber, but the apparent justice of the act has prompted an outpouring of satisfaction from a public grown weary of the unprecedented violence now reigning in the Underworld system.

There was no ambiguity this time, unlike the two earlier cases this year — in which blacks killed blacks in less than clear circumstances — and unlike the case of Mr Bernhard Goetz, the celebrated "subway vigilante", who shot three youths in 1984 and provoked a furore about racism.

As witnesses described it, a grey-haired man in a trenchcoat boarded the Number Four train at 10.30pm on Thursday as it was leaving Brooklyn to cross into Manhattan. Fourteen young men, high on marijuana and drinking brandy, singled him out as an easy target. Ricky Pickett, their leader, aged 25, shouted: "I'm going shopping. This one is for real."

He threw the man on the floor. He and his friends, wielding a razor and possibly a gun, kicked him and beat him, took his wallet and then picked him up and hurled him on to a seat. The man then reached into his waistband, pulled out a pistol, and shot Pickett three times through the heart. He alighted at the next station and calmly walked away before anyone had alerted the driver.

Police reported that Pickett was a well-known mugger with a long record of armed robbery who was on bail awaiting trial for an arrest in February. One of the gang, a 17-year-old, was arrested yesterday.

"Who could blame you?" screamed the banner headline in the *Daily News*. "The guy who fought back," was the *Newsday* version. On the television, in the radio phone-ins,

in the coffee shops and subway stations over the weekend, the comment was unanimous: "The guy deserved it ... I would have liked to do the same."

Unlike the Goetz case, where the white man attacked the black youths after they had only threatened him, there has been no outcry over racism. "In New York a white man shot and killed a black man on the subway and there was no rage," *Newsday* said yesterday. "For the moment, fear of crime brought all together. A sad irony, but true."

About two dozen violent robberies are committed every day on the subway system. Murder has become common as the overall rate in the city has reached a record of seven a day. Police say pack attacks have become the fashion in recent months as youths have grown increasingly bold and desperate under the influence of "crack" cocaine.

There have been two such gangs reported per day so far this year.

Police are appealing to the man to come forward, but few expect him to do so, given the likelihood that his gun was unlicensed. Unlike much of America, carrying an unregistered gun is a serious offence in New York City.

Mr Goetz, although acquitted of the attempted murder charge, was sentenced to a year for possession of a weapon and served nine months of his time.

Mr Charles Hynes, the District Attorney, has recently promised harsh treatment for anyone carrying an illegal gun. But as the *Daily News* commentator said yesterday: "In any other kind of case, that sounds pretty nice. If the gun comes up illegal and Hynes indicts this fellow, the citizenry might just run the DA out of town."

Police involved in the case spoke admiringly of the *sang-froid* of the mugging victim as he turned the tables on his attackers. Some speculated that the professional technique he displayed with the pistol indicated that he may have been a former officer or a security man, although those categories are usually allowed to carry weapons.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

St John's, Antigua

His column has always prided itself on its familiarity with that no-man's land where sport meets art. I therefore introduce W.S. Cameron of Guyana — a serious contender for Player of the Series as the final Test between England and West Indies draws to a close — in a different persona. In a poem that begins: "Wham bam tinn", he writes:

We Saturday holiday Sunday cricket
calypso pan

And table too not on a minor scale
But a national euphoric scale

This poem, enigmatic to say the least, was distributed by Cameron to anyone in the bar who would accept a copy. He was thrown out, came back, then in quick succession had a terrible row and a beer with the official.

Cricket football athletics calypso

Pan and table ...

Alwe must vary north cote case

And Wight cup cricket more popular and

clannorous for alwe

Than Test cricket for alas it's Guyana ...

A wee ping ping pee pee

Ole York and London we don't miss you

boy

This Guyana is the latest dot of the world.

He urges us to "look for book titled Guyana Cultural Evolution". I certainly shall.

Really, the journals who follow cricket matches these days do nothing but upstage the cricketers. Viv Richards, the West Indies captain, has made dramatic headlines by not only but two threatening outbursts to a Daily Express correspondent, my friend James Lawton, who thereby becomes another promising candidate for Man of the Series. Richards is a frightening fellow not famous for his self-control. "He told me to stop looking at his eyes," said Lawton. "I consider that a sort of triumph."

The routine pitch invasions that greet big moments for the West Indies here are enlivened by an extraordinary fellow with blond dreadlocks, a large black beard, iridescent blue socks, and high-heeled shoes. He performs a ritual headstand in the middle of the pitch at the climax of every incursion. This professional character goes by the name of Graveney. All the same, that family.

I hear that Harold Ballard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leaf ice hockey team and renowned throughout North America for his redness, has died aged 86. The president of the National Hockey League, John Ziegler, once described him as an "original, colourful and challenging individual". Ballard, in response, described Ziegler as "a know-nothing shrimp".

There is scarcely any athlete anywhere without supervision — for them, the matter of putting one foot before the other assumes cosmic importance. Wade Boggs, of the Boston Red Sox baseball team, is probably world champion. Before



Boggs: nothing to chance

every home game, he eats chicken at 3pm; ends fielding practice by stepping on third, second and first base, in that order; takes two steps in the first base coaching box and then four steps back to the players' dug-out; tosses a ball against a wall; emerges on to the field at 7.17 exactly; and draws a Hebraic symbol in the batter's box. "Everybody has a routine," he said. "Mine just takes five hours."

I would like to salute rugby referee Gary Jones for his recent spectacular feat of despatching three players to the sin bin and then sending off one of his linesmen for "constantly quibbling" with his rulings. Jones called off the match, between Briton Ferry and Furnace United in west Glamorgan, 15 minutes into the second half. "I had no alternative," he said. "There was total disregard for my decisions." Bill Williams of Briton Ferry said: "It was not a dirty game." His side was leading 18-3 when they all took an early bath.

My racing snout, denied a possible Grand National coup when Sir Merin unseated his rider eight fences from home, has been stung into action on hearing that Kevan Leason, who retired six years ago after riding more than 300 winners, has had a sex change operation and is now known as Karen. He rang the Jockey Club and asked how he would react if Ms Leason decided to return to racing and reapplied for a licence. Long pause for thought, then: "I think we would have to refer the matter to our resident doctor."

Moscow
President Gorbachov's council of senior advisers has already taken over the real decision-making on issues such as Lithuania and economic reform. The Politburo, for decades the power base of the ruling Communist Party, finds itself shunted into the sidelines.

In many ways the Presidential Council is like a US cabinet: the president has included his ablest politicians, and those who control the main policy fields: defence, the economy, home and foreign affairs. But he has also added people little versed in politics whose influence is vital in ensuring broad acceptance of his policies: writers, environmental campaigners, trade union leaders, representatives of ethnic minorities. Each member of the 16-man council is an authority in his particular field, and none is a political yes-man. Mr Gorbachov clearly hopes their debates and disagreements will be creative.

There are six key figures, four of whom would traditionally be in any cabinet: Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister, Dmitry Yazov, defence minister, and Vadim Bakatin, minister of home affairs. The fifth, Aleksandr Yakovlev, is one of Mr

Michael Binyon on the new men mapping Soviet policies

Gorbachov's Oval Office

Gorbachov's most trusted ideological allies, a man who has pioneered reform in party thinking, especially on foreign policy, and who is a vital link between the old party power base and the new "shimline" cabinet.

The sixth man, Vladimir Krutychkov, is head of the KGB. His awesome task is to transform this still feared and intrusive organization from a hydra-headed apparatus of dictatorship to a regular security-cum-police force firmly under the rule of law.

Ryzhkov is a key figure in the move to a market economy. As chairman of the Council of Ministers, he has to oversee the break-up of the huge bureaucracies now controlling industry and a drastic slimming down of the council. To many, he has been a disappointment: a man who stepped back from bold action last autumn and who appears anxious to preserve what he can of the old bureaucracy under another name.

But his caution is balanced by a more radical advocate of reform, Dr Stanislav Shatalin, a member of the Academy of Sciences, who has the reputation of a maverick economist for his outspoken criticism of conventional Soviet practices. He advocates an immediate move to a full market system.

Ryzhkov and Shatalin are probably in opposite corners on how to implement reforms which the council has already agreed cannot be delayed. Sharp disagreement emerged when it discussed the matter on Saturday. A likely supporter of the go-slow school is Veniamin Yarin, a hardline trade union leader who knows well that a sharp rise in prices will cause bitter resentment among workers. His conservative views appear to be sharply at odds with those of Mr Gorbachov, who has made economic reform his priority. But despite years of passivity, the trade unions could prove powerful enemies, by

including Yarin, he may hope to control worker opposition.

Other members also appear to be chosen because of the powerful constituencies they represent. Valentin Rasputin, a well-known writer who lives in Siberia, is not a party member and has no direct political experience. But he is a powerful voice for Russian nationalism, which commands a huge and emotional following. His campaigns on the environment and efforts to preserve Lake Baikal as well as ancient monuments, and his calls for the revival of traditional village values, all strike a resonant cord.

Another writer, Chingiz Aitmatov, is also a deputy to the Supreme Soviet. A brave, campaigning against Stalinism in the Brezhnev era, he is increasingly known and respected overseas. Although he writes in Russian, he is from Kirghizia, and his inclusion conveniently gives representation to the populous area of Muslim Central Asia. He

is chairman of the commission on nationalities, languages and culture. Similarly, Vadim Bakatin, the interior minister, is also deeply involved in dealing with inflamed national passions and quelling recurrent bouts of ethnic violence.

Mr Gorbachov, who sees the Supreme Soviet as a vital part of his government's structure, has included several of its leading members. Yevgeni Primakov, a former journalist, headed the prestigious Institute of Economics and World Relations, one of the top liberal think-tanks in Moscow, and was a member of the party's central committee before being elected a deputy to the Supreme Soviet last year. As the first president of that body, he played a vital role in transforming it from a passive rubber-stamp to an active parliamentary chamber.

Yuri Osipyan, a member of the Academy of Sciences and prominent physicist, is also a people's deputy, as is Valeri

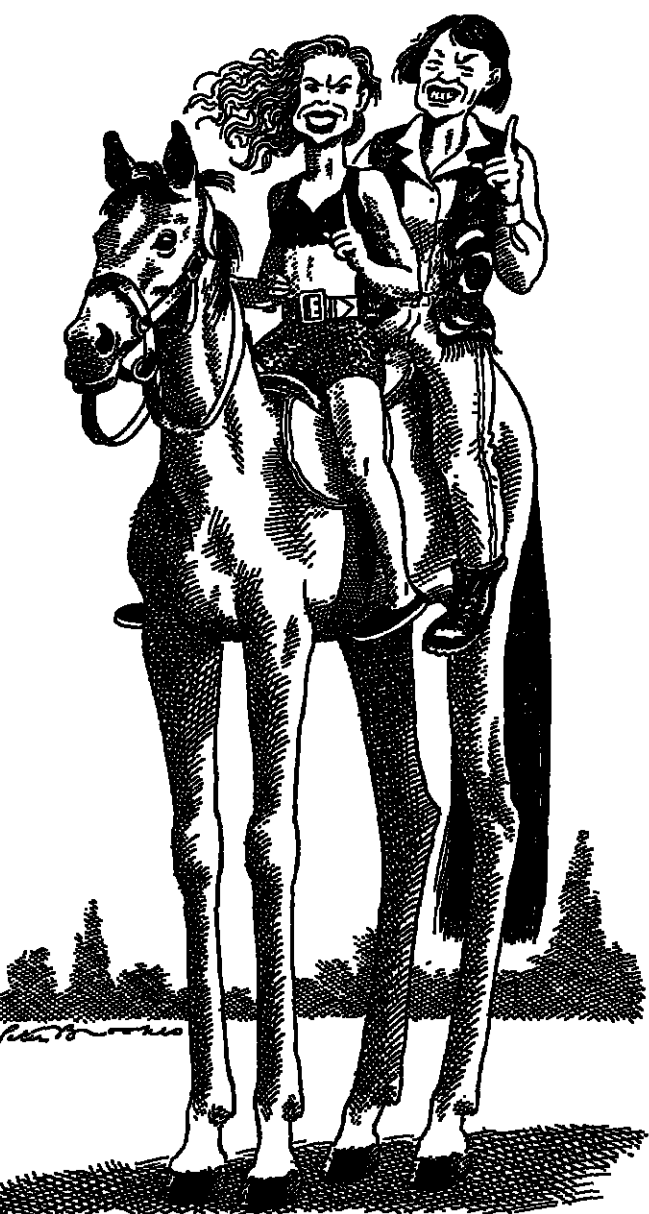
Boldin, a central committee member who has been rebuilding party ideology. Grigori Revenko, a Ukrainian, is a people's deputy and member of the Supreme Soviet, and since 1986 has been a member of the party commission on international affairs. And Albert Kauls, a Latvian, is a people's deputy who can represent Baltic sentiment in the highest Kremlin council. He is also, conveniently, an agricultural expert, an area in which Mr Gorbachov's reforms will be severely tested.

Yuri Maslyukov, a deputy prime minister and candidate Politburo member, holds the vital post of chairman of the state planning committee — still one of the key levers of power in the Soviet Union. But, like Yakovlev, his real power base now is as a member of the Presidential Council.

It is significant that Yakovlev, once an exchange student at Columbia University and for 10 years Soviet ambassador to Canada before being rapidly promoted by Gorbachov, was the man who talked to the Lithuanian delegation which tried to open negotiations here last week. He was officially described then not as a Politburo member, but as a member of the Presidential Council.

Come off it Kylie — and Glenda too

Bernard Levin, detecting a whiff of fanaticism, urges two renowned scolds to mind their own showbiz



adding her four penn'orth of intolerance on the subject of smoking, and would be likely to double their distaste if the hectoring were accompanied by an executive order, handed down from the saddle of the high horse, prohibiting with fearsome penalties the use of a cup which is not made entirely from recycled origami.

There are things we dislike even more, and one of them is to find ourselves being hectoring by jilly-come-latties. No doubt the warbling moppet has been persuaded, and is now profoundly convinced, that the world will come to an end immediately unless she takes action to stop it doing so. It is good of her to bear the awesome burden of responsibility, but do her 21 years, I ask myself, enable her to speak with the kind of authority which would have the nations, starting with ours, scurrying to collect

enough blankets to plug the hole in the ozone layer?

It seems to me much more likely that she heard of the dangers of plastic cups about three weeks ago, and with the impetuosity of youth decided to do her bit; the dangers of smoking she presumably came upon a little earlier. But what she has not yet learned is that it might be a very good idea for her to listen, instead of emitting a series of edictal howls about smoking and plastic cups, for the very good reason that by doing so she might discover what she is talking about.

I shall do her the credit of believing that she is not so silly as to be taken in by press agents, whose press agents in these matters to fall not far short, if at all, of a claim that the client can not only levitate at will, but also walk on water, and indeed both at once. But for her to start throwing her slender weight

about in such a fashion suggests that if the press agents had limited themselves to the suggestion that she can raise the dead she would, blushing, have agreed. It is notoriously difficult, in any delicate or fraught matter, to guess what kind of response is likely to be provoked; but we must try to foresee it. And it would surely not be difficult to conjure up with considerable exactitude and completeness what would be thought, and even said, in response to a threat to people with minds of their own that without breaking the law they face dismissal for smoking.

It may be thought that I am taking a bass trombone to crack a flute. Well, I am quite sure that Miss Minogue gives pleasure to many and does harm to none. But the same thing could be said with equal truth about Miss Glenda Jackson.

As it is far too late for legislation making it a criminal offence, punishable by transportation, for any actor or actress to stand for Parliament; true, Andrew Faulds, MP, cannot entirely disguise his thespian origins, for all that he played the Trojan Horse and thus started it all, but he is a merry fellow, and anyway has always given the impression that though acting is an enjoyable way of earning a living it is not really serious. No one, however, could ever imagine Miss Jackson being merry, or falling to be serious, either on the stage or the hustings. And that the legislation I yearn for is necessary can be demonstrated by what may have been the very first words she uttered after her nomination as prospective candidate for Hampstead; Kingsley Amis having been mentioned, she delivered herself of the profoundly considered opinion that he is a fascist, and, shortly afterwards, that nurses are underpaid.

That, apparently, is the highest level of political understanding and intelligence to which Miss Jackson can aspire; parliamentary debates, if she wins, will hardly be terrifically exciting occasions. Yet she is a very good actress, and in that capacity has thrilled very many thousands, including me. Miss Jackson's trouble is in essence the same as Miss Minogue's: she is one of nature's scolds, and moreover without the excuse of Miss Minogue's youthful innocence of the world.

Unfortunately, the ducking-stool (the traditional punishment for scolds) was abolished some years ago under pressure from penal reform organizations, and the scolds have forgotten that they are scolds, with the lamentable consequences we see all round, not least in a tremendous stage presence bringing Cleopatra or Hecuba Gabler to life, and a pretty young girl who can fill and thrill a crowded Wembley Stadium, both becoming, off-stage, the dreariest of busybodies. O, reform it altogether!

Raymond Plant

Shopfloor dividends

The recent changes in Eastern Europe are being cited in political debate in Britain to suggest there is no practical intermediate position between the capitalist market economy and centralized planning. This is an absurd view, belied by the degree to which European capitalist societies in the past 40 years have required state intervention to keep them operating. Moreover, the view is based on an idea of the role of the state within socialist and social democratic societies which is now challenged as much by socialists as by their opponents.

Traditional socialists believe their goals can be achieved only by public ownership of the means of production and centralized planning of the economy. Social democrats reject these assumptions but wish to use the power of the state to distribute more evenly the wealth produced by the market. Proponents of capitalism argue that government cannot intervene without creating vast bureaucracies under the one system or great inefficiencies due to the loss of incentives under the other.

These problems, together with events in Eastern Europe, have led many on the left to rethink the role of the state. They take the view that empowerment of individuals, just reward for labour and an ideal of self-government are at the heart of the socialist project, and that these values are threatened by the state bureaucracies that socialist and social democratic governments have spawned since the war. They ask: can socialist aims be more easily achieved through market mechanisms, among other things by allowing workers to have more say in, and possibly control over, production?

A distinction has to be drawn here between markets and capitalism, for other kinds of ownership besides traditional capitalist forms of property are compatible with the market. Capitalism, a doctrine about ownership, can be separated from a doctrine of the market mechanism, which is a theory about the free exchange of goods. All exchanges are exchanges of property rights, and market socialists are interested in looking at alternative views of the nature of property.

Of course, the free market conservative argues that if the aim is to empower the worker, popular capitalism will do this much better than "market socialism", whatever that may mean. On this view, popular capitalism, in which more and more people own property and shares, gives them a greater appreciation of the market, a greater sense of their own worth, and a sense of independence; all this can be achieved by extending capitalist ownership without any new-fangled mechanisms.

However, it seems to me that at least in terms of the ideals of empowerment and self-government, this is not the case. Power is what some economists have

called a positional good — the power of one person or group can be extended only if that of others is diminished. Power depends on someone else not having it.

Such an assumption seems to animate the Government's policy on home ownership. The sale of council houses, for example, empowers the owner and disempowers the council. But it is not clear that share ownership gives more power to the small shareholder. The proportion of shares owned by new shareholders under this government is very small. They exercise little power in the enterprises in which they have invested, including those for which they work. (A notable exception is the National Freight Consortium, which was bought by its employees.)

I've been interested in empowering people, there should be more employee shareholders, and they should have an enhanced role in deciding how their firms are run. That is the theme of a pamphlet by James Cornford, director of the left-leaning Institute for Public Policy Research, which was set up 18 months ago to counterbalance the various free-market think tanks. In *A Stake in the Company*, Cornford argues that shares owned by employees should have special voting rights giving them more weight than those of outside shareholders. To this end, employee share ownership schemes, which were introduced in the 1989 Finance Act, should be greatly encouraged.

Cornford admits that this has too many restrictions to make it attractive to companies, and makes another radical proposal. He says that for tax purposes, investment by employees in their own companies should be treated on a par with contributions to pension funds. His aim is to change the nature of ownership, so that it moves away from capital towards labour, yet within the context of a market economy.

The Tories can have no objection in principle to using the tax system in this way, for the Government has in the past extended mortgage interest relief to encourage the kind of ownership of which it approves. Hitherto, socialists have seen this change of ownership as being possible only through co-operatives. These are fine in their way, but assume an ethos of work and management which does not suit everyone. Using employee share ownership schemes in a more radical way would increase the power of the shareholder in his own company, and would reduce the power of capital, which is one of the central socialist aims. It would also secure more justice in the distribution of income within such companies, and bring about the changes in workplace psychology which, it is claimed, follow from wider share ownership.

The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

SOME YEARS ago it was my job to answer letters sent to Mrs Thatcher when she was Opposition leader. Usually, the flow of correspondence was quite steady, varying only a little — and predictably — with the weather. A rainy weekend was worth about 300 letters proposing alternatives to the domestic rating system.

I often wonder if the editor of the *Daily Mail* knew what trouble he caused me when his newspaper organized a competition in which readers were invited to set their thoughts — directed either to the prime minister (Mr Callaghan) or Mrs Thatcher — into a verse which could be sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers". Thousands of readers did; and many hundreds sent copies to Mrs T herself. I had to reply.

Those were the early days of "automatic" typewriters, and we had one, newly purchased. So I

composed a standard acknowledgement which we used for every verse we received. It went like this:

Working through our mailbags,
— chanced upon your note.
Full of admiration
For the lines you wrote.
Others, too, have written;
To them all we've said:
"Many thanks for all your poems;
One thing more we'd add:
Should you have — besides this hobby —
Yet more time to spare,
Why not join the Party?"
Gifts like yours are rare!
I cannot remember whether I showed this to Mrs Thatcher. I

hope not. It received, at any rate, a measure of critical acclaim from other party hacks. It was my first, and only, attempt at composing hymns.

Until yesterday morning. All weekend, the newspapers have been full of the controversy over the proposed removal of the middle verse from our National Anthem. Apparently it is considered too jingoistic, and there are people who want to replace it with something which better reflects the spirit of our age. But what would that be? Does our age have a "spirit", as the Victorian age did? Surely political philosophies these days have become too divergent to be



united by any common sentiment that was more than banal. So, of course, we shall end up with something banal. But wouldn't it be better to celebrate our differences, rather than paper over

them, by providing alternative middle verses, to be chosen according to the political taste of the singer?

Here, to be sung to the tune of "God Save the Queen", are five proposals. The first is for worshippers on the left:
Give us the strength to smash
Racist and sexist trash —
The people's fight!
Politicide the mass!
Power to the underclass!
Nationalize British Gas!
Workers, unite!
Some Labour MPs could subscribe to that, but many — of the ascendant "Left" Tendency — will prefer something more centrist. They could join the Liberal

Democrats and Tory "wets" in singing the following:
Ceres, Lord, let us be,
In the community:
Help us to choose.
Free creches, nationwide,
Span the North/South divide.
North, South, East, West,
provide

Disabled loas.
Those on the right might perhaps go for this:
Beacons of excellence,
Decency, common-sense —
Lord, give us hope.
Flag, birch, let scoundrels swing,
Privatize everything!
With the Home Counties, sing
Bring back the rope!

Where do the Greens and the SDP fit in? The SDP's ideology is less apparent than the personality of their leader. So, for them:

Right Hon D Anthony
Llewellyn Owen MP
Is our party.
Dr and statesman he,
ex-foreign secretary
He is the SDP
And we are he.
And, finally, we have the Greens, who have asked me to point out that the appellation "God" leaves unresolved the question of whether He, She, or They exist — and that this is a matter which the leadership has yet to discuss.
God save our spacious green
Environmental scene,
And set us free
From Satan's nuclear game,
Nirvana and toxic shame;
Let us deserve the name
"Ozone friendly!"



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

MR MANDELA'S BANK HOLIDAY

Nelson Mandela is welcome in Britain today. He has joined that rare band of individuals who have become symbols of political freedom while in captivity and survived to carry their message in liberty. For a moment, we set aside *realpolitik* and acknowledge that symbolism.

Britain has long given sanctuary to fighters for freedom. On occasion, that welcome has seemed disproportionate — such as that given to Garibaldi in 1864 and to Gandhi in 1931. A Wembley pop concert may seem a bizarre contribution to the struggle for black rights in South Africa. But art too has its celebration to offer. When Solzhenitsyn left Russia in 1974 and Sharanov in 1986, they were lauded not only as intellectuals but as custodians of political freedom. If we cannot occasionally allow hope a modest triumph over cynicism, we are indeed poor in spirit. As a symbol, Mr Mandela is an inspiration to millions.

Behind the symbol, however, stands the man. And here the struggle between hope and, at best, scepticism is more tangled. Mr Mandela has not disappointed his admirers in his nine weeks of freedom. He has had to establish some authority over the bickering internal and external factions of the African National Congress. He has had to do this while keeping faith with all those at home and abroad who simply want to see him and believe in him. He has had little or no organisation behind him.

Despite some clever individuals within its ranks, the ANC is still steeped in neo-Stalinist *naïveté* and seems increasingly lost without its East German and Soviet backers. As Mr Mandela found in his ill-fated attempt to parley with the Natal faction fighters early this month, black politics on the ground in South Africa is a messy and murderous business. The townships of Pietermaritzburg must have seemed far indeed from the garden parties of Lusaka and the smart hotels of Stockholm — far even from the leadership-in-waiting of Pollsmoor prison.

Through all this, Mr Mandela has kept his dignity and apparent thoughtfulness. Yesterday, he acted promptly to expose one of the more unpleasant skeletons in the ANC

cupboard, the behaviour of some of its "training camp" cadres. While the Swedish government and the British Labour party, in their eulogies of the ANC (and of Swapo before it), turned a blind eye to widely rumoured atrocities, Mr Mandela knows that moral authority is won by tough action not vacuous words.

His failure to meet Mrs Thatcher falls into the category of canny pragmatism. Mr Mandela knows that his release, while certainly a political gamble, was a sign of some strength on the part of the South African leader, Mr F.W. de Klerk, and one that had little to do with the international sanctions campaign to which Mrs Thatcher was so opposed. Of all overseas leaders, she and her ambassador in Pretoria, Sir Robin Renwick, were probably the most entitled to claim a modicum of credit for the eventual release decision. Instead she gets a snub, while those who demanded she "do something about Mandela" — as if Britain still ruled that continent — hire a stadium to gloat at her discomfiture. But governments must always suffer thus. Contempt is the one consolation of opposition.

For Mr Mandela, the easy part is now over. He must go back to a much-vaunted "negotiating process" whose outcome is desperately uncertain. He must lead the ANC out of its barren, hierarchical Marxism and teach it that modern Africa needs economic realism as much as it needs political advance. He must reach some accord with the ANC's opponents in Inkatha. He must find in South Africa's rudimentary local democracy some legitimacy for himself and his exiled colleagues. He must do all this against the certainty of white backlash and of black bitterness at the slowness of political and economic progress. Nor does he have much time. He is 72 and there are hotter heads waiting to try his shoes.

Thousands will troop home from Wembley tonight filled with a warm glow of moral self-righteousness. For them, all these concerns will seem comfortably far away. Not so for Mr Mandela. He must take the symbol and test it in the fire. He truly deserves our sympathy.

McLUHAN'S OLD CLOTHES

The performance of the media covering Mrs Thatcher's Bermuda meeting with President Bush has had some seasoned British observers reeling. The scene had been set by a flood of articles and television reports from London-based correspondents. Their tone was apocalyptic. Those who had written most admiringly of the Iron Lady during the Reagan years now found a script that was entirely new, taking its cue not from some deeply observed change in the British political economy but from two highly televised events, the Trafalgar Square riot and the sit-in at Strangeways jail.

Newsweek promptly spoke of the "belligerence of a growing underclass". *The Wall Street Journal* questioned the Prime Minister's political relevance. Network newsreels were awash with sound bites and clips of fire and mayhem. Britain seemed up in arms. Nor was America the only source of hyperbole. Europe, waiting for ten years to get its own back on *La Dame de Fer*, set about her with a vengeance.

Le Monde said that the riots were "the price that Britain has to pay" for Thatcherism. *Die Welt* remarked that "England's society has been made violent as a consequence of *laissez-faire*", a strange accusation from West Germany. Iron ladies were rusting and suffering metal fatigue. The old stereotype was gleefully upended.

There is no surprise about this. Political image-making is about taking the rough with the smooth and hoping the smooth comes out on top. What is disturbing is that the deluge of adverse publicity for Britain and its leader has been occasioned not by falling opinion polls, rising inflation or by-election defeats. Such mundane events have claimed little attention from far-distant editors. What has sent Mrs Thatcher's plight to the top of the schedule is sheer violence, the ever-potent footage of brick-busting hooligans and burning buildings. It is this that has validated the story of declining popularity. It is riot that enables a foreign correspondent to say to his boss, "You see, I told you so!" and his boss to reply, "Yes, great story!" Blood is the greatest news editor.

YEAR OF THE LADYBIRD

"Your house is on fire, Mother Ladybird" scolded Mrs Thomasina Tittlemouse. "Fly away home to your children." Beatrix Potter's house-proud little heroine, sweeping away her uninvited guests, must be having a hard time of it this year. Two mild winters have increased the ladybird population a hundredfold. There has been nothing like it since the long hot summer of '76.

Whether this will spoil the insect's glowing image is a moot point. So far its voracious appetite for greenfly has made it an ally of all mankind. They have been used in biological control programmes and Americans can now buy them in garden centres as organic pest destroyers for their flowerbeds. The name is short for "Our Lady's bird (or beetle)" which suggests a long history of veneration.

When the Nature Conservancy Council announced last month that the 13-spotted variety had died out (a casualty of disappearing wetlands) the news was widely reported, despite the fact that 42 varieties remain. Few realized that ladybirds come in different colours, can have from between two and 24 spots (the most common has seven) and vary significantly in size.

In Yorkshire they are sometimes known as cuscush-ladies and in parts of Sussex as Bishop Barnabees. One presumes that a Bishop of Chichester long ago had a bright vermilion back with large black spots. There is even an old Sussex rhyme

Bishop, Bishop Barnabee
Tell me when I'll married be
If it be tomorrow day
Spread thy wings and fly away.

Perhaps that is why the ladybird is a symbol of good luck, a heavy burden to place upon so tiny a creature.

Not all species are gardener-friendly. In France there is one which likes to chew carnations — hardly likely to endear it to *les jardiniers*. In some countries along the Mediterranean coast ladybirds have developed a taste for the local melons and in India they are keen on aubergines.

Nor are all Britain's spotted carnivores as cuddly as they look. Some of the bigger ones get through more than 50 aphids daily and have to fight like tigers for their prey. Their hunches gang together and fight back, sometimes kicking their unwanted diners off the bush or even spraying them with a kind of wax which blinds the ladybird or even kills it.

A high survival rate among ladybirds is generally good news for rose growers. But garden greenfly will no doubt appear this year in equal abundance and maintain the notorious balance of nature. Despite the gargantuan appetite of the ladybird, many greenfly are certain to escape.

Those preparing to open a bottle of champagne to celebrate the year of the ladybird should remember that other story of 1976. South coast beaches had to be evacuated after swarms of Bishop Barnabees swooped down in the manner of Hitchcock's Birds, crawling over the egg and cress stone-ground sandwiches and clambering up brimming cones of Mr Whippy. The balance forged by Nature is a fine one — as Mrs Tittlemouse, in her wisdom, clearly recognized. Mother Ladybird should not push her luck.

Public display of works of art

From the Chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund
Sir, The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has proposed permitting private buyers to match the prices offered by overseas buyers for notable works of art which have been temporarily held back from export. Previously, only museums and galleries have been permitted to buy such important works by matching the prices offered by overseas buyers, the principle being that notable works of art should be on public display.

In the House of Lords last week Lord Hesketh said that the offer made by the Barclay brothers for Canova's "The Three Graces" was not made to the Government, but to the owners, and that it was therefore for them to decide whether the Barclay's proposal to lend the sculpture for public display was acceptable.

These words would seem to imply that the Government has no interest or say in what happens to works of art held back from export. Surely the essential principle of public access should be maintained, and not just for 20 years but for future generations as well. And surely, if a work of art is considered so important that an export licence is refused, a buyer in this country should provide guarantees of proper conservation?

These are two of the conditions which the National Art-Collections Fund recommended to the secretary of state be laid on any private buyer of an export-stopped work of art. However, problems may arise with the legal enforceability of such conditions, especially over an extended period of time, and there are widespread doubts as to the practicality of the secretary of state's proposals.

In the case of "The Three Graces" changing the rules in the midst of a case cannot be recommended. Since we have an offer from Lord Rothschild which would safeguard this work of art for the nation, in whichever public collection the Museum and Galleries Commission thought most appropriate, why are we rushing to establish such a dangerous precedent without adequate time to work out its consequences?

As to the future, the imaginative tax concessions announced by the Government should encourage private benefactors to help museums to buy the works of art they need. If private owners were also able to obtain tax concessions upon gifts of works of art to public collections, then we might see some alleviation of the present crisis over acquisitions by our museums and galleries.
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art-Collections Fund,
20 John Islip Street, SW1,
April 11.

War horses

From Mrs Carolyn Berkeley
Sir, Following Mrs Bates' suggestion (April 4) that it might be suitable to reunite Marengo and his saddle at the war horse exhibition at the National Army Museum, could I suggest also reuniting Marengo with his hooves. Two are in the possession of the Guards, mounted in silver and used as snuff mills. These were presented by a descendant of J. J. Angerstein, founder of the National Gallery, who possessed Marengo after his arrival in England. What I do not know is the name of the benefactor who "found Marengo wandering on the field of Waterloo".
Yours faithfully,
CAROLYN BERKELEY,
49 Arden Road, N3.

From Mr J. R. Milner
Sir, It would be unwise to attach too much authenticity to the portrait of Napoleon and his horse shown in the edition of March 29. Meisnoper had scant opportunity to produce such a work at first hand, for he was not born until 1815. In order to portray his idol, this Napoleonophile bought a suitable horse on which he himself posed, appropriately dressed, before a mirror. The well-known painting of the 1812 retreat was produced using this device. So too, presumably, was the portrait shown in your feature.
Yours faithfully,
J. R. MILNER,
8 Mellerstain,
Gordon, Berwickshire.

Measure for measure

From Mr Malcolm Brown
Sir, Your correspondent Mrs Parker (April 7) has made a valid point about the British hesitation in adopting the metric system now used by most of the world. Some Imperial units, such as the mile, may not be replaced for a while and will continue to be used.

Today, virtually every petrol pump in the UK dispenses in litres. Yet, at the last Budget, price changes were announced in "pence per gallon". On ITV's Oracle teletext the equivalent cost of fuel on the Continent is in "pounds per gallon". I doubt that in many of these countries the "gallon" measures have ever been used. To arrive at these costs requires two conversions, one for currency and another for volume, thereby doubling the scope for error.

Car manufacturers now need to give thought to quoting fuel consumption data in "miles per litre" in place of the old "mpg". This is preferable to using the Continental "litres per 100 kilometres" which does not relate to the unit of distance we use, and again involves unnecessary calculation.
Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM BROWN,
11 Wallace Close,
Woodley, Reading, Berkshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to treat crime and the culprits

From his Honour Judge James W. Rant, QC

Sir, Mr Heaton-Armstrong ("Pack the judges off to jail", *The Law*, April 10) appears not to understand that those who are responsible for sentencing offenders do not live in ivory towers. We all read the newspapers, watch television, read social inquiry reports, and we all listen to counsel when they mitigate.

Most of us during years of practice in criminal law have visited prisons regularly. We are all therefore fully aware of current custodial conditions, whether we now visit the institutions in question or not. It is in any event irrelevant to the problem of dealing with offenders to say that judges are not sufficiently aware of the difficulties of detaining criminals.

It is all very well to downgrade certain crimes by talking euphemistically of "acquisitive offences": what of the victims, over whom occasional crocodile tears are shed, but whose interests we have to respect? What explanation does Mr Heaton-Armstrong suggest should be given to a householder whose privacy has been violated by a burglar, dealt with by "punishment in the community", and who is undeterred by it?

What are we supposed to do with a young man who persistently breaks into other people's cars and steals whatever he can lay his hands on after every possible alternative has already been tried?

There is, in the end, no other way than to lock up those who will not and do not respond to non-custodial measures, albeit for short periods, so as to protect decent, honest and hardworking members of society. This unpleasant truth has to be faced daily by every sentencing tribunal in the country.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES W. RANT,
Central Criminal Court,
Old Bailey, ECA.

From Professor Peter Campbell
Sir, When ministers and Parliament consider the lessons of Strangeways, with particular reference to the problems of sex-offenders, they should deal with the fact that some men are in prison because the law still criminalises sexual acts between males in various circumstances in which similar heterosexual behaviour is not criminal — for example the age of consent for homosexual acts is 16 while for heterosexual acts it is 16.

In consequence every year some

adult men and younger males go to prison or other custodial institutions for fully consensual and victimless "crimes". Many other men and youths get non-custodial sentences.

The Criminal Law Revision Committee recommended in its 1984 report on sexual offences — the product of over eight years' careful work — that some male homosexual behaviour of this kind should be decriminalised and that many other provisions of the law on homosexual and heterosexual acts should be reformed. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 1981 and the European Parliament in 1984 urged their member-states to go much further and to end all discrimination against homosexuals.

Very sadly, the Government has stated on several occasions that it has no plans to introduce a Bill to implement these recommendations and our law remains unnecessarily, harmfully and unjustly more severe than that of many of our partners in the Council of Europe and the European Community. It is to be hoped that the Government's efforts now to reduce the prison population will include a constructive response to the recommendations.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CAMPBELL,
(Vice-President),
The Conservative Group for
Homosexual Equality,
BM/CGHE, London WC1N 3XX.

From Dr Richard Wyndham
Sir, The announcement that Lord Justice Woolf is to hold an inquiry into the Strangeways riot fills me with exasperation. We had judicial inquiries following riots at Peterhead and Winchester prisons and at Risley remand centre. Sir, we know fairly well why prisoners riot in our overcrowded and disgusting prisons. Minute details of the particular spark which sets off this or that tinder box are irrelevant. What is needed is government action, not another procrastinating judicial gaffe.

Let us have no more expensive and time-wasting judicial inquiries. The stories are all the same, only the names and dates need altering. The remedies are also well-known but require hard decisions to be taken and public money to be spent.
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WYNDHAM,
Bramfield House,
Barford Road,
Marlingford, Norfolk.

it should not be difficult to turn that same speech into concrete, positive and far-reaching institutional proposals.

This is precisely what the Bruges Group has been working on for several months. We shall be publishing our own proposals before the EC summit in Dublin at the end of June.

Furthermore, we shall be taking these proposals to the Congress of European Liberals in Vienna, which takes place just before the start of the IGC. We are determined to set up an effective "confederal" vision for all of Europe, not just the present club of 12. Britain is the country most suited to lead a united Europe into a new era.
Yours sincerely,
PATRICK ROBERTSON,
Secretary,
The Bruges Group,
85/87 Jermyn Street, SW1,
April 11.

issue of results in the third week of August.

The examining groups are concerned to avoid undue encroachment on the teaching time of all schools, but they must also ensure that the examinations are completed before the end of the summer term, which, for some schools is the end of June not the end of July.

Mrs Macaire appears to be unaware that the GCSE examinations in 1988 and 1989 began in mid-May, on Monday, May 15, and Monday, May 16, and that the bulk of the timetable falls in June, the period previously associated with GCE O level.
Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HATFIELD, Chairman,
Joint Council for the GCSE,
Netherdown House,
23-25 Marsh Street,
Bristol, Avon,
April 12.

Making it clear

From Mr Michael Brailsford
Sir, I received a mailshot from British Rail Network SouthEast this morning that offers me a new Network Card with terms as follows:

"... as a special bonus, when your new Card runs from the date the old one expires, it will be valid for 3 months instead of 12 at no extra charge".
Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BRAILSFORD,
12 Chaucer Court,
Winnalls Park,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
April 11.

Elusive porpoise

From Mr Donald Barrington
Sir, The fact that Docky, the purposeful porpoise who made alliterative front-page news (report and photograph, April 13) ignored the performance of the flute-playing marine biologist is not necessarily evidence of tone-deafness. It is reliably reported that Mozart expressed intense dislike for the flute.

If the service of a co-operative

Foreign flavours on the table

From Mr J. E. T. Shirley

Sir, As a commercial grower, I share Mrs Audrey Tait's dilemma (April 10) and offer the explanation that the countries she mentions as being sources of salad produce hold a considerable competitive edge on the UK.

For example, growers in The Netherlands are able to purchase their fuel for glasshouse heating at 50 per cent less than those in the UK. They have a Government that encourages and stimulates horticulture, unlike that of the UK.

The Netherlands, Germany, France and, in fact, all other EC countries actively encourage horticulture and, in particular, Spain, benefits from free solar energy. Furthermore, interest rates are roughly half of those in the UK. Investment in horticulture is actively encouraged.

The future for English horticulture is extremely bleak. Those entering horticultural college and graduating, wanting to take up growing as a career, will find that there is a current wave of "green hysteria" sweeping the UK and a deterrent against building glass-houses, so, in consequence, more and more produce will continue to be imported.

Yours sincerely,
J. E. T. SHIRLEY,
Victoriana Nursery Gardens,
Challock, nr Ashford,
Kent,
April 11.

From Mrs Rosemary Carter
Sir, Last weekend I made a salad for the family lunch. Unlike Mrs Tait, I picked from the garden and cold greenhouse, lettuces (Valdor and Hilde), rocket, mustard and cress, American cress, celnec, radish, lamb's lettuce, Welsh onion, spring onion, celery and sorrel. To these I added marigold petals for colour, and parsley, thyme and marjoram for flavour.

Mrs Tait might have difficulty in growing these things in Marlborough Mansions but surely some English grower could be providing them for her local supermarket.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY CARTER,
Holbrook,
Rotten Row,
Lewes, East Sussex,
April 11.

From Mr Robin Butler
Sir, Imagine my surprise this morning reading Mrs Tait's letter when only last night I had entertained similar thoughts and a few guests to dinner.

The lamb we had was Welsh, the potatoes English, the green beans Kenyan, while the dwarf corn was from Thailand and the sugar snap peas from Guatemala. The courgettes were from Spain as was one variety of lettuce we had in the salad that followed. The other two lettuces were from France and the tomatoes were Venezuelan.

All this from one local supermarket, but at least the rosemary and mint were from my own garden.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BUTLER,
20 Clifton Road,
Bristol, Avon,
April 10.

From Mr Ross Fenn
Sir, Last weekend, like Mrs Tait, I also made a salad. The lettuce, tomatoes, radish, cucumber, watercress, spring onions, parsley and capsicum all came from England, though I must confess that we ate it from a China plate, with French cutlery on a table made in Sweden.

Yours patriotically,
ROSS FENN,
Fruit Fare Ltd,
7/8 Kings Circle,
Kingstanding,
Birmingham,
April 10.

From Mrs Flora Mennie
Sir, Mrs Tait writes of the many countries from which the ingredients of her weekend salad came. I serve every day at lunch a small salad and my ingredients on this cold spring day are: apple, beetroot, cabbage, mint, parsley, spinach, beet, spring onions and quince preserve — all grown in my small suburban back garden.
Yours in triumph,
FLORA MENNIE,
7 Princes Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
April 10.

From Mrs Cindy Smith
Sir, In Singapore I bought a bottle of Scottish spring water for a price lower than in my local London shops and supermarkets.

I am sure that the equivalent British ingredients of Mrs Tait's salad are most probably doing nicely elsewhere.
Yours faithfully,
CINDY SMITH,
27 Micheldever Road,
Lee, SE12,
April 10.

female porpoise were to be enlisted, this might prove a more attractive lure from King George's Dock, Hull, than 30 scuba divers.
Yours faithfully,
DONALD BARRINGTON,
6 Houlton Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
April 13.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

LORD BRUCE-GARDYNE

17925. 28 Gory. Mrs M. M. M.
Berk and Suck. 1748. 38 G
Barnfield. Mrs M. van. Boston
London 1720. 48 Suck. C. C.
and M. M. M. S. Tick. London
1720.

The Sovereign's Parade

[illegible]

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University news

Glasgow
Appointed Titular Professor (with effect from October 1)
Dr Kenneth A. Brown,
Department of Mathematics,
Dr George G. Browning,
Department of Surgery,
Royal Infirmary, Dr Graham H. Coombs, Department of Zoology, Dr Michael J Cowling, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr Simon C Garrod, Department of Psychology, Dr Dorothy A. Mac Geddes, Oral Biology Group, Dr Alexander G Johnstone, Department of Chemistry, Dr Angus J Kennedy, Department of French, Dr Forbes Munro, Department of Economic History, Dr David J Robins, Department of Chemistry.

So long or farewell?

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

THOUGH I suspect he is likely to make as many farewell appearances as the Maria Callas he once profiled, Tony Palmer either promised or threatened that Sunday night's *ITV South Bank Show* would be his last before setting off to a new life in Europe, directing opera. Palmer's film about the composer Paul Hindemith proved characteristically impressive and chaotic in roughly equal measure. Loosely based on the *Mais der Mäler* opera of 1933, which itself was loosely based on the Grünwald altar-piece for Isenheim of 1516, Palmer's programme was far from content to be the television film of the opera of the painting.

On to all of that, he therefore also layered the life of Hindemith in Nazi Germany, highlighted by Sir John Gielgud reading from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*: maps and guide books were not provided, but one glimpse of the Nazi banners being lifted over Hitler's head to the strains of a 50-piece orchestra and we knew where we were.

There were, as always with Palmer, some splendidly evocative and even enlightening images; but there, too, was a determination to hurl everything pell-mell at the viewers and let us make of it what we could. Hindemith turned up less often than Hitler, presumably having been of less interest to newsworld photographers circa 1934.

As for his opera, this was played out largely by church-hall amateurs in cotton-wool beards apparently auditioning for a coarse-acting contest, but also required to double as figures from an altar-piece of which the true grandeur was only revealed to us in the closing shots. It was magnificent, it was war, and it made almost no coherent narrative or documentary sense. What Palmer will be remembered as, and I hope he will continue to prove this, is the first master since Ken Russell of the pop video for classical music.

For *Arena* on BBC 2, Jana Bokova had a two-hour documentary on Havana. This was equally characteristic of the virtues and failings of the great Czech film-maker.

An exile herself, Bokova's talent is to get her camera into people's private quarters and then leave it running for ever, so that what emerges is a stream of consciousness, through which flood the agonies and the occasional ecstasies of the human spirit in retreat. In Cuba she found the relics of Castro's revolution living in a Graham Greene world of spiritual and architectural decay while all around them the world has turned away from the communism which has worked no better there than elsewhere.

Suzanne Vega, a singer-songwriter whose fragile appearance belies her determination, talks to Rose Rouse

Sensitive rather than weak

Delicate, waiflike, pale-skinned - New York singer-songwriter, Suzanne Vega has had her fair share of diminishing descriptions. With her intimately soft voice and her predilection for lyrics which are a darker shade of grey, Vega has been variously interpreted as a contemporary female version of Leonard Cohen or a whimsical Joan Baez.

Understandably, Vega is riled. "The waiflike thing really irritates me," she says. "It's especially bad in this country. Everyone goes 'She's so quiet, so timid and frail', and they all expect me to cower in the corner. I think I have a soft voice, but that interpretation is very superficial."

Vega is articulate, funny and penetratingly analytical. But, she does have very pale skin and a natural inclination towards fragile images and painful experiences.

"Luka," the moving, hugely successful single which brought her to public prominence in 1987, was about child abuse. "It has helped people realize they had been abused," she says.

"It gave them a handle to talk about it. I received thousands of letters from people all over the world telling me about their experiences."

Other songs of hers deal with subjects such as attempted suicide and prostitution. "To me the darker side of life is real life," she says. "I've always felt pop songs are like, 'If I write a song, I want it to be about something I consider more real'."

Vega started out in 1980, wearing a black tuxedo jacket and strumming her acoustic guitar around the bars in Greenwich Village. She was a *novelle* folkie. "The scene then was very much

women with long, flowered dresses and flowing hair or men with beards," she says. "There was no sense of contemporary folk, like there is now with Michelle Shocked, Tracey Chapman and Billy Bragg. I looked very different. I had very short hair and sang weird songs without singing choruses. Among these ageing hippy folk types, she was considered a tough, almost punk character."

Four years later and despite her lack of obvious marketing potential, Vega was signed to A & M records. Her first, eponymous album featured the seductively clever "Marlene On The Wall" and that quirky paean to fragility, "Small Blue Thing", in which Vega imagines she is a martini.

"I think that song is very funny," she says. "It's like a cartoon. It's not a big joke - it's a little one."

Vega cannot help it. She is automatically drawn to small, brittle words. She is a minimalist when it comes to the rigours of language. "I once had an argument with my stepfather, who is a novelist, over putting a semi-colon into one of his long sentences," she admits.

She also has a special talent for isolating fleeting moments then examining them very closely. In "Night Vision" which appears on *Solitude Standing*, her second album, she homes in on the central imagery. "Now I wish you falling asleep," she sings, "watch your fist curl against the sheet, watch your lips fall open and eyes dim."

Vega is just about to release her third album, *Days Of Open Hand*. Whereas her first album covered her as a scruffy, skinny, ethereal figure, this one has her with a very linear "bob" haircut,

her face made up and a hand significantly open, all inside a wooden picture frame.

It indicates sophistication as well as a desire to be taken as an artist with a capital A. "I want people to listen to my lyrics and treat me with a certain amount of gravity. I don't want them to go, 'Hey baby, you've got nice legs'."

Days Of Open Hand features Vega as a co-producer for the first time. It also has at least one optimistic song. "Books Of Dreams" is the single," she says, "and I wanted to make it a positive song. I made a deliberate attempt to write something where no one is killed. It is about opportunity being open."

Dreams are a frequent theme on the album. Vega came to London in 1988 specifically to write songs; she ended up having some very eventful dreams. "Men In A War" is about losing a limb but retaining the feeling that it is still there. "That started with the image of a wounded soldier in a cot," she says, "which I dreamt."

Musically, this album involves more instruments and Vega has gone for a fuller presentation in a rock style rather than the spareness of folk. Within her, I venture, there is a small urge to be a rock 'n' roller. "I just think it's a lot more vivid," she says. "The vocals, for instance, are much more emotionally spontaneous." A Hammond organ, a zither and various objects being beaten augment her own spartan but deeply personal vocal performance. "Producing it myself meant I was like a kid in a toy shop," she says. "I wanted to use everything."

Days Of Open Hand is released today. Suzanne Vega's tour starts tonight at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge. It ends at the Dominion, London, May 28-June 2.



Suzanne Vega now: a more sophisticated and artistic image

Festival founder favoured with a fine 40-year tribute



George Wein at the piano

AFTER four decades as the jazz world's most active impresario, George Wein amply deserved his three hours of glory in Manhattan. A fund-raiser for the respected New Jersey jazz radio station WBGO, this gala occasion had its long-term, but the combination of the veteran musician and Bill Cosby's laconic presentation won through in the end.

Wein opened his first jazz club in Boston in 1950, not expecting the venture to last. Within a matter of years he founded the Newport Jazz Festival, inspired by the classical seasons at Tanglewood. Newport set the pattern for festivals around the world.

At Carnegie Hall it took some time to rekindle the free and easy atmosphere of the early Newport era. The opening routine by trumpeter Terence Blanchard and saxophonist Donald Harrison -

Clive Davis

George Wein Gala
Carnegie Hall,
New York

two Art Blakey graduates - was typical of the "young lions" performances, offering little beyond updated Charlie Parker with stainless steel phrasing.

Montgomery, Plant and Stritch, an enjoyable cabaret vocal act, seemed out of place in a concert hall, while Jay Beckenstein performed the kind of undemanding cocktail-hour solo associated with Spyro Gyra. The loudest applause went to Jon Faddis for his showy trumpet high notes with a group co-led by Toshiko

Akiyoshi and Lew Tabackin.

A curiously pointless solo recital by Stanley Jordan - simultaneously playing guitar and guitar synthesizer - opened the second half. But from that point the concert changed gear, helped by a barnstorming number by the Latin pianist Michel Camilo.

Over the course of an entire set, Camilo's thunderous arpeggios can be self-defeating. Here he judged the mood perfectly with a seamless composition mixing his assured classical technique with hints of salsa and Bud Powell. A gaudy concoction perhaps, but a welcome contrast to the bland virtuosity of Camilo's contemporaries. Here, at least, was one sign of promise for festivals of the future.

Of the rest of the artists, the Basie singer Joe Williams came out with all guns blazing on

"Shake, Rattle and Roll", accompanied by George Benson and a self-effacing Wynton Marsalis. Marsalis's own solo ballad was a controlled display of well-rounded tone and smeared notes, provoking sighs from the gallery.

It was the underrated cornet player Warren Vaché who most caught the ear, with sinuous and concise solos which exploited the horn's acoustics. Vaché will never be as fashionable as Marsalis, but along with Ruby Braff he is among the most lyrical players.

Vaché appeared as part of Wein's All-Stars, with the promoter himself, still a nimble pianist, alongside Tabackin and trombonist Urbie Greene. Wein allowed himself the liberty of deploying his sandpaper voice, very pleasantly, on "Just a Gigolo". Relaxed and convivial, this was festival jazz at its best.

Restored with coherent, restrained taste

Andrew Gibbon Williams on the first stage of rebuilding at the National Museum of Wales

The Welsh national art collection has never been one of the Principality's major attractions; most visitors to Cardiff come for the opera or, in rather larger numbers, the rugby. Nevertheless, the art holdings of the National Museum of Wales are exceptionally fine, and the neo-classical museum erected between 1928 and 1932 provides as elegant a home for them as any outside London.

Several years ago, the controversy surrounding the museum's acquisition of a set of putative Rubens tapestry cartoons attracted the connoisseurs and the curious, but mostly the art collection has been neglected by the public, perhaps because it has been tucked away and absorbed into the general exhibitions. The dowdy, old-fashioned display and the £1 admission charge cannot have helped attendance figures.

Now things are likely to change. On March 28, the soon-to-retire Secretary of State for Wales, Peter Walker, opened the eight magnificent galleries of the refurbished

East Wing. £2.9 million has already been spent on this initiative, in the first stage of Britain's most extensive government-funded museum development. By 1993, the museum will have been extended and transformed at a total cost of £24 million.

The architects, Alex Gordon Partnership, have resisted the temptation to reconstruct the museum dramatically, and have chosen instead to restore the handsomely proportioned spaces designed by Smith and Brewer in the late Twenties. Restraint is the key to the muted colours, the artificial lighting sensitively supplementing the large skylights, the beautifully crafted display cabinets and benches. I am glad that the vogue for camp Victorianization has also been eschewed.

The achievement of the curators is that they have hung in a historically coherent arrangement

a disparate collection, which includes landscapes by Welsh-born artists (from Richard Wilson to Kerry Richards), by artists inspired by Wales (Turner, Piper, Sutherland) and portraits of Welsh personalities such as the book-carrying equestrian to James I. Philip Proger, and the prolific "Mother of Wales", Katherine Berain.

In the largest of the rooms, the greatest Welsh patron of the 18th century, Sir Watkin Williams Wynon gazes out from what must be the finest triple Grand Tour portrait by Pompeo Batoni. Around him is the furniture designed for his St James' square mansion by Robert Adam.

But the greatest strength of the collection is its landscapes. Wales provided Richard Wilson with any number of views ideal for Italianate treatment; the 13 Wilson pictures make the collection a must for students of the artist.

There is a good selection of Dutch painting - a superb Cuyt - but the greatest treasures are Claude's "Saint Philip Baptizing the Eunuch" and Poussin's "Finding of Moses" (which was saved from the clutches of the Getty Museum by a joint campaign with the National Gallery).

Wales will have to wait another three years before its modern collection and the fabulous Davies bequest of Impressionists find permanent locations. Augustus John and his sister Gwen dominate the temporary modern selection. Meanwhile an anonymous lender has made the Cardiff museum a place of pilgrimage for Hercule Poirot fans. A turbulent, Fauvist characterization of his creator, Agatha Christie, by Kokoschka shows how the Expressionist master could apply his style to the most unlikely of sitters.

The National Museum of Wales, at Cathays Park, Cardiff (0222 397951), is open Tuesdays to Saturdays (and Bank Holiday Mondays) from 10am to 5pm, and on Sundays from 2.30 to 5pm.



Handsome proportions: one of the refurbished galleries

Dated witch-hunt which makes sense as author's cool self-revelation

OSCAR Wilde was an ingratiating opportunist. Oscar Wilde was a sly subversive. Either case can be sustained on the evidence of this, his first theatrical success. It is sentimental, melodramatic and mechanically constructed, yet full of impish humour. It seeks to flatter and beguile the upper classes, but

also to criticize their rigidity and unbend their backbones a bit.

It goes without saying that the play has dated. I suspect that the people of Bristol have rather stiffer, or at least less rubbery, backbones than the metropolitan norm; but they scarcely need telling that it is a little unfair to hound

that figure who so fascinated the late Victorians and their dramatists, the Woman with a Past. Indeed, Wilde's qualified defence of his Mrs Eryne would probably have seemed dated to Wycherley and Etherey, who wrote 200 years before him.

Still, her fate is less extreme than that of Piner's Mrs Tanqueray or a dozen others. Suicide or beggary was how they atoned for sexual indiscretion. Wilde allows his Woman with a Past to lure a dim aristocrat into marriage and, more importantly, to emerge with a bit of moral credit.

Mrs Eryne is a blackmailer, by her own admission "not worth a woman's sorrow", but she still sacrifices herself to save her daughter from plunging into the social pit.

Maggie Steed strolls confidently through the role at Bristol, bestowing white, wolfish smiles on those whose gentility she envies. You get the impression she has come from miffing pieces of marinated Red Riding Hood over champagne at the Café Royal, and is peckish for dessert.

She is less successful when she belatedly discovers in herself maternal love for Lady Windermere, the child she abandoned years before; but then her author's forte was not the heaving climax, nor is Robert Carsen's production strong on emotion.

Perhaps it is the mannered language that inhibits the cast;

lam furiously out of her husband's life as a Meissen china shepherdess is likely to storm off its mantelpiece.

What remains is a play still worth attention, both for its nimble wit and for its oblique insights into Wilde's own, increasingly perilous way of life. *Lady Windermere's Fan* is where a cynic is definitively described as someone "who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing" and scandal as "gossip made tedious by morality".

It also ends with its most priggish character, Lady Windermere herself, putting the case for tolerance and moral complexity - "there is the same world for us all, and good and evil, sin and innocence, go through it hand in hand".

Hollow words for Wilde, who actually spent the night of the play's opening with Edward Shelley, the clerk who would figure in his trial four years later. When Mrs Eryne talks of being "despised, mocked, abandoned, sneered at", and forced to "pay for one's sin, pay again, and pay all one's life", she might be reading her author's palm. The Woman with a Past was, so to speak, Wilde's own future.

pulling a cart loaded with a sack, from which he withdraws ordinary objects, made extraordinary by their very banality.

Five minutes into the hour-long performance, the first spoken word is like a pistol shot. Then follows a jigsaw puzzle of childhood memories, whose pieces are relentlessly repeated, rearranged until the sounds cease to be words and become shrill, chilling notes.

Borg begins to inhabit the space around him, bringing into play the ladders to act out an intricate geometry in which the human body plays an integral part, with

ever increasing intensity and speed. Nothing is stable, and his body is part of this instability. All is destined to collapse, according to a changing logic, sometimes at the will of the actor, sometimes by the force of a word: "Bing".

The acrobatics are dazzling, the rhythm unfaltering, the aggression of movement frightening. When *Bing* imperceptibly merges into *Imagination Morie Imagination*, the eyes are wide with seeing.

Life has been effaced, all that is left is imagination. Dominique Fortin's masterly lighting design punctuates the movement, serves to underline a word, anticipate a thought, accentuate an emotion.

Finally, Borg takes from the sack tiny models of the props around him, attempting to create an equilibrium in miniature.

Diane Hill

Bing
Renaud Barrault, Paris

Still not quite right

CONCERTS

Stephen Pettitt

Messiah
Barbican

A FEW months ago, Jeffrey Tate conducted an unhappy performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor here with the English Chamber Orchestra. The interpretation seemed nervous, the balance of forces awry, the marriage of conductor and composer distinctly uncomfortable.

Returning with the London Symphony Orchestra, he has now turned his attentions to Handel's *Messiah*, justifying his use of a large body of strings and providing employment for horns and woodwind by choosing to play Mozart's wonderful arrangement. It is also sometimes deliciously naughty. Sliding, chromatic chains of woodwind chords and pointed thematic echoes in the woodwind, for instance, dramatically invade "Thou shalt break them".

Messiah can survive anything, and Tate was certainly far more confident than in the B minor Mass. Ever so, he seemed unwilling to shape, for example, the "Hallelujah" chorus with the due care that even a shout of joy demands.

Often, too, the best seemed dogged rather than crisp. Consequently the response of the LSO's strings was sometimes sluggish, though the Tallis Chamber Choir - a few exposed, strained tenor entries apart - sang with an incisive determination and obvious enjoyment.

Tate's team of soloists was distinguished but ill-matched. Fine Wagnerian he may be, but Robert Lloyd has too vast a voice, too portentous and undifferentiated a manner, to be able to react to the humanity of this score. Sarah Walker, a true mezzo rather than a contralto, initially seemed strained by the low tessitura, but later sang the aria "Behold and see" (usually taken by a tenor) beautifully and intensely.

Perhaps in a conscious attempt to match Lloyd, Anthony Rolfe-Johnson was in heroic, romantic mood, though his performance was invested with the right colour, dynamism and thrust. Only Barbara Bonney, a little unsteady at first, but radiant and poised in "He shall feed his flock", managed to pull the Mozartian and Handel elements together satisfactorily, and to give the impression that this miraculous music simply flows from the body.

Negative emphasis

Noël Goodwin

St Matthew Passion
Festival Hall

FOR those who cherish *The St Matthew Passion* as sacred drama and not simply religious oratorio, the Good Friday performance was unlikely to have stirred the spirit. Divided by a "refreshment" interval of Glyndebourne proportions (though with nothing on offer to tempt any corresponding picnics on this occasion), Bach's illumination of the Gospel story glowed fitfully here and there, but for the most part sounded a dutiful account of the text rather than any sense of developing drama in music.

Above all, I never felt that Jane Glover, who conducted the two organizations she directs, the London Choral Society and London Mozart Players, was as concerned as she should have been to emphasize the optimism underlying Bach's viewpoint.

To begin with the end, the C minor elegy of the final double-chorus came across as a lament for what we had heard about instead of a reminder that this was but the prelude to the Resurrection.

Along the way, the conductor certainly kept the pace moving forward, and it was a pleasure to hear the chorales taken at quite a joyful lick, as they no doubt were as aids to encourage congregational devotion. These were well sung by the choir, supplemented in Part One by the boys of Haberdashers' Aske's Schools, but the all important intrusions of the chorus-as-people in the story-telling lacked enough vehemence or conviction to bring the events alive for us.

Adrian Thompson successfully did so with his graphic singing as the Evangelist, replacing at short notice an indisposed Anthony Rolfe Johnson, and having his intended tenor solos sung instead by John Mark Ainsley, best with Charles Medlam's agile *viola da gamba* in "Endure, endure". John Shirley-Quirk had dignity though not his clearest voice for Christus; Alastair Miles brought generous tone and eloquent feeling to the bass solos.

The ladies were disappointing. Elizabeth Gale's soprano too light and twittery, Sarah Walker's mezzo having intensity of feeling but surprising little tone to support it. The instrumental playing was secure, the flute and oboe da caccia notably well shaped.

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INTERVIEW

A tune that never changes

Glenys Kinnock will delight in the music of today's Mandela celebrations, Barbara Amiel reports. But how ready is she to recognize that the old anthems of socialism might now be in need of new melodies?

One can't be entirely sure about Mr Kinnock — the extent of his tolerance for rock music and other matters is not on the record — but we can be certain about his wife. Sitting in Wembley Stadium tonight at the Nelson Mandela celebration, decibel count notwithstanding, Mrs Glenys Kinnock will be having the time of her life. All her life, Mrs Kinnock has given her unquestioning support to the policies of the anti-apartheid movement as led by the African National Congress. Not one atom of doubt has ever made the crucial jump across the synapses of her mind. Tonight, as the conga drums mingle with the electric synthesizers, she will be genuinely moved to the core of her being. It's difficult, in one sense, not to envy such certainty.

It is not unfair to wonder how Mrs Kinnock's faith in the left-wing Kingdom-to-come has been dealing with events of the past year or so. She had been forthright in her support of General Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua and convinced of the triumph of democratic socialism in Eastern Europe. One muses on this not maliciously but with genuine curiosity. I set off to see her at her home in Ealing, on the occasion of the publication of her new book, *Namibia: Birth of a Nation*. The book is a collaboration between Mrs Kinnock and photographer Jenny Matthews. Mrs Kinnock's contribution is the prefatory essay.

Mrs Kinnock greeted me at the door, looking quite radiant. She was wearing a black and white dress with a very full skirt that rustled as if it were tulle on top of crinoline. On her fingers were the set of rings that are made by artisans. Her Victorian home is comfy, with a front parlour that has a nice squeaky sofa and attractive clutter. The large chart on the back of the upstairs lavatory door tells you all about the rain forests and the earth's warming, with lots of diagrams.

I started off by asking her about the book's preface. Mrs Kinnock has written very optimistically in it about the newly independent Namibia. In the past year she had also been the target of some criticism for failing to take up the question of torture and detention of people by the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) on her visits to the country. She deals with this specifically in the preface by condemning any such inhumane treatment "regardless of any alleged justification" and welcoming Swapo's stand that it will launch a full investigation. I thought the revelations about Swapo, a movement she has supported so strongly, must have caused her considerable personal anguish. "How did you personally cope with such knowledge?" I asked.

Perhaps she thought the question was a trick, because her answer lacked much sense of personal involvement. "Well, it was really not that much of an issue when we were there. I dealt with it by talking to lots of people about it. I did meet people and I did hear for myself some very disturbing stories. So although I am accused of disregarding the issue, I don't think I ever did."

It was not possible for Swapo to organize those sort of inquiries during the very short election period and you know that's not just a case of making excuses, it's just realistic what was possible for them. I accept that, and what we and the international community wanted to hear were very firm reassurances that this was not what Swapo would have wished to happen to anybody. So I felt satisfied.

I wondered if now that the election was over, she was making inquiries about what was being done. A lot of people, after all, are missing. "I don't know. I mean, I'm not familiar with what's happening now," she replied. "I just feel sure that they will do it, but I don't know and haven't

asked. I mean, it's only a week or so since independence."

How did she choose her cause? I asked. She explained her interest had always been in the developing countries and Africa. South Africa was of particular concern. "It is the ultimate expression of racism, simply because it is the only example of institutionalized racism. There are various forms which I detest, but of course that is the one which I believe very strongly has been an inspiration to racism all over the world." She mentioned her concern with Mozambique and Angola, and then said she would like to visit Cambodia and Vietnam, which were also countries whose developmental needs had suffered because of conflicts. She mentioned that our survival in the West was dependent on theirs. I wondered why.

"Well, I mean, environmentally for one thing. Because, of course, what happens in the rain forests affects what happens to us. If the air, the sea and the land is being destroyed, because people are poor and they have debts, it affects our own survival. Chernobyl proved that above all else. It proved there are no boundaries which these things will stop at."

We discussed my suggestion that the problem of such countries was their system of government rather than our attitudes.

"Well," she replied spiritedly. "In Namibia it certainly has been the result of the system of government. It's been the result of the apartheid system. Of course, I would accept that in many developing countries there are governments which foster the needs of an élite and do not see the necessity of focusing on the needs of poor people. Quite often, governments choose to have money for things which are not heliophily relevant to the lives of poor people, you know, airport surveillance equipment and great big guns and that kind of thing."

This did seem a bit mild as a description of the motivation



Listening post: Glenys Kinnock has the zeal of missionaries who bandage the bleeding

of most leaders in Africa and communist Asia. The solution, in Mrs Kinnock's view, could be found by all of us concentrating more on women. "Women in the developing world," she said, "are far too often ignored and not consulted about agricultural innovations or literacy. I always say to people in meetings, if you close your eyes and I ask you to imagine a farm, I'm sure most of you would picture a man. But most of the world's food is being produced by women on small plots, trying to feed their families. And if we invest in their children too, because any woman knows that she will put her family first and if it's food, if it's clothing, if it's education, then she will always prioritize her children, and that isn't always going to be the case with men."

I did wonder about the record of Mrs Bandaranaike and Mrs Gandhi in this matter, but I thought readers would be more interested in Mrs Kinnock's thoughts on Mrs Thatcher. It turned out she didn't have any. "It's difficult for me to even think of her as a person," she replied.

We moved on to a discussion of the underlying principles of Mrs Kinnock's approach to issues. "I still feel myself to be as much on the left as ever," she explained. This intrigued me. Given the problems facing the left, was Marxism still a source of inspiration for her?

"Socialism is still the creed," she answered, "which I and Neil and other people in the Labour Party still hold. So we ought to try. No one is afraid of using the word 'socialism' in the party and our party constantly does say that we are socialists and that the form of government that a Labour government would have would be a socialist government."

It seemed to me that one could easily be unfair to Mrs Kinnock. She is not a political theorist, she is a school teacher. On the other hand she has abandoned the cocoon that would normally protect the spouse of a politician by writing several books on Third World countries and lending her name to various political causes. All the same, I tried to turn the conversation back to her more personal response to events in the world. One is interested in how committed human beings with strong moral and political views face challenges to their beliefs. As voters rejected socialism in so many countries, wasn't one forced to ask some painful questions?

Mrs Kinnock didn't see that socialism was being rejected anywhere in the world. East Germany, she pointed out, was a vote based on unification. But didn't she ever worry, I said, deep down about some of the things the Sandinistas had been doing, for example? She did not.

How did she prepare herself

before going to a country to support a cause? Did she read a lot of books about the Sandinistas or Nicaraguan politics? "Not books, I haven't read books," she answered. "You only have to read anything that Oxford or Christian Aid or others in our own countries, the various charities, say... I read all the cuttings, lots of cuttings from the United States and other places."

I was not until we started talking about the possible move of Mrs Kinnock to 10 Downing Street that a little seriousness left her voice. "I mean, it would be just so wonderful to be able to look forward to moving there," she said. Then, carefully, "I tend not to think of us, I mean I don't want to sound silly and dishonest, but I look forward to moving in there not because of us, but because it would mean we would have a Labour government," I believed her.

Why did she think people kept re-electing Mrs Thatcher? "They felt she was security," Mrs Kinnock said. "I don't know why, but we were not able to convince people about what was happening with the NHS. Now we are so much better prepared for the next election. When people say we haven't got policies, that's totally untrue, because people have been beavering away all over the place making policies and it will all be there. It isn't necessary for us to leap back and respond all the time by offering blueprints on every single policy, because nobody does that before an election, but it will be there."

As we finished talking, I asked Mrs Kinnock if there was any other time in human history in which she would like to have lived? "No," she answered. "I'm really a child of the welfare state. I was born in 1944, so I've lived through very exciting times... Coming from my background, very poor in a small house in Northamptonshire, with no running water, well, I don't think I could ever have had any of the opportunities that I've had in another time. Certainly, my parents never had the opportunity that my brother and I had. I was just lucky to have parents who felt it was very important to ensure that both my brother and myself had a university education." It seemed to me that what Mrs Kinnock didn't quite see was the point that only liberal democracy had made possible the wealth necessary for the welfare state. I put it a little more softly by saying that surely the past 11 years of Thatcherism had furthered the opportunities of people like her family.

"Well, for people like us, in our income bracket," she replied, "yes, I think people have done quite well." Continuing in the same sentence, she said: "I see it all around me. I felt education was exciting and great progress was being made. I feel great concern now that so much of it

is collapsing around our ears. Teachers are being bombarded with far too much new information to disseminate, to understand and then put into action in their classrooms."

I couldn't quite grasp Mrs Kinnock's thought process, but I could hear the one perfectly consistent note that had been present. Under her bursts of didacticism was concern. Concern about teachers, concern about women in poor countries, concern about the aged, the handicapped, the poor. Authentic, genuine, deeply felt concern.

There was no point in making fun of her arguments or the flaws in her logic. She can hear only one tune. It is the anthem of all those thousands of missionary ladies who have scrubbed the bedpans and bandaged the bleeding in human society. Some do it quietly, some do it a bit bossily, some do it anonymously, and some marry the man who becomes leader of the cave or Her Majesty's loyal opposition. There is little point in reiterating the obvious to them: that as marvelous as such women are, and they are, one can only hope that they are imprinted by the right time in their youth. Their devotion and zeal can be harnessed to the wrong cause as easily as the right one. They will act dutifully and charitably under the worst dictator for no personal profit or malice, but only because they believed in him. Tonight, at Wembley Stadium, Mrs Kinnock will hear many tunes, but not one will disturb her certainty that the anthem of the ANC is by far the most uplifting.

Is the recipe to be rewritten?

The great names of cookery writing combined innovative recipes with literary style. Who is poised to take their place in the next century?

Looking back through the centuries, it is not hard to trace the evolution of cookery-book writing. Looking ahead into the 21st century is less easy, but I am bold enough to make some predictions.

The first prediction seems safe enough. Hundreds of new cookery books will be written and published, most of them run-of-the-mill affairs. It was ever thus.

Inevitably, only a few writers and a few books achieve excellence and have lasting value. But I believe the proportion has been increasing. The reason is simple: standards of cookery-book writing have been raised, irreversibly, during the past 40 years.

Until 1984, no systematic attention was given to the question: what are the criteria of excellence for cookery books? However, in that year, the First Symposium on Australian Gastronomy, held in Adelaide, addressed it directly. Knowing that the annual Oxford Symposium on Food History had it on its agenda too, the Australians formulated their views in a punchy message to Oxford; a message which was duly conveyed, studied and — albeit in a rather vague, Oxonian fashion — approved.

The first and foremost of the stated requirements was that a cookery book should be founded on direct knowledge and experience. A good literary style, naturally enough, was specified; and so were clarity and an appropriate degree of precision (not the same as 100 per cent precision) in recipe writing. No one stipulated colour photographs of finished dishes. But praise was given to writers who acknowledged sources, and to those who set their recipes in context, illuminating and aerating them by historical or geographical comments.

The authors most often mentioned as meeting these criteria were Elizabeth David and Jane Grigson. Lamenting Grigson's death last month, someone asked me: "Who can hope to take her place?" The simple answer is no one, because that place no longer exists; the context in which she started writing about cookery, more than 20 years ago, has changed. This inescapable fact applies even more strongly to Elizabeth David, who started 40 years ago. Any thought that either author might be replicated in the world of today or the future is misguided; hope not for clones.

However, there may come another author whose achievements, although different, will be of similar excellence.

There are further, and exciting, changes which have not come to fruition. There has been a place for specialized books for some years. A few

small publishers have nested in this niche. But it is expanding, and big publishers are finding that a good book on a limited subject is a viable proposition.

Another trend which has still to emerge fully is the inclusion in cookery books of the scientific aspects of the subject; something which links with growing concern over how foodstuffs have been produced and processed. The American author Harold McGee, in *On Food and Cooking* (1984), has done more than anyone to stimulate cooks to take an interest in the physics and chemistry of cooking.

These phenomena are already visible. Looming on the horizon is another, the "multicultural" or "global" approach. There are a few writers who have lived and cooked — not just briefly, but for a considerable time — in all the hemispheres, western and eastern, southern and northern, and whose work spans the world. Elisabeth Lambert Ortiz is one. The fruiting effect of such experience can be seen by reading her *The Book of Latin American Cookery* (1979) and *The Cookery of Spain and Portugal* (1989).

Ingredients and techniques from all parts of the world are coming together in an unprecedented manner, and not least in Britain — one thinks of the invasive wok, the supermarket fish from the Seychelles and the Caribbean, the fruits from every continent. These phenomena are reflected in the cookery pages in British newspapers, including the wide-ranging articles by Frances Rissell in *The Times*.

So my hunch about the future superstar in cookery writing is that she or he will be someone who succeeds in spanning the globe, and doing so on the basis of real knowledge and unusual powers of analysis and synthesis.

I said "she or he", and it doesn't really matter. But, given the consistent eminence of women cookery writers in Britain, I would say that our superstar of 2000 will be a woman; that within the past five years she finished taking her university degree, in a subject which has no special connection with food; that circumstances or inclination will cause her to travel very widely, and probably to live abroad in several countries; that she is a person of wide reading and many interests, including history and science; that she has no present intention of becoming a cookery writer; but that, of course, she is a good, experimentally minded cook. And the world, all of it, will be her oyster.

Alan Davidson

● The author is writing the *Oxford Companion to Food*, and is the publisher of a number of books about cookery.



Perfect mix: Jane Grigson (left) and Elizabeth David

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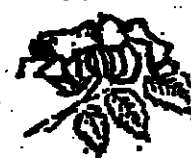
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EDUCATION

Bringing back the truants

The old problem of truancy has taken on new dimensions, although its results are the same — wasted funds and lost talents. But a scheme funded by the Government is offering hope, Jane Bidder reports

Thirty-six local education authorities will return to school next term with a problem described by educationalists as "non-attendance", but which parents would blithely refer to as truancy or fear of school.

The spread of the problem prompted the Department of Education to launch its first programme to improve school attendance.

Under the scheme, local education authorities in Britain were asked to submit bids for grants totalling £2.34 million, with ideas for combating truancy or non-attendance in their area. Authorities were also asked to match the grant, pound for pound, from their own funds. Croydon, one of the 36 authorities to win a grant, plans to monitor two or three schools by drafting in extra staff and, possibly, computerizing school attendance details to keep a day-by-day record of students.

The grants come at an opportune time. The summer term, due to start in about two weeks, is normally the peak period for truancy because of the mild weather and, sometimes, fear of examinations.

Although no central figures are available (each authority keeps individual records), the Secondary Heads' Association believes truancy "has definitely increased in the last five years". Jackie Miller, the association's assistant general secretary, says part of the blame lies with the National Curriculum, which insists that pupils take certain subjects until they turn 16.

"I can see some children voting with their feet if they cannot get out of a subject they do not enjoy."

Ms Miller says truancy has been worsened by the school disputes of the late 1980s. "Children learnt the subconscious message that if teachers can opt out, so can they."

Legally, a local education authority is obliged to ensure that children receive a full-time education. A team of educational welfare officers is usually responsible for this. However, not all authorities employ welfare officers; some have to transfer the job to social services; others have only part-time officers.

Peter Lewis, general secretary of the National Association of Social Workers in Education, says: "There are only 3,000 educational welfare officers to cover up to 10 million school children. Many have had patchy or no training."

A 1989 government report entitled "Education Observed: Attendance at School" also criticized schools that did not adequately involve education welfare officers. The report says that "in some primary schools, head teachers were reluctant to call on the education welfare officer because of the school's own concern to establish and build direct relationships with parents." Truancy was once viewed as a class problem affecting families that placed little value on education. Now the problem affects middle-class children, too.

Bob Gale, of the Professional Association of Teachers, says: "Kids from professional backgrounds with both parents working are often left to make their own

way to school in the morning — or not, as the case may be."

Mr Gale also works with children with social and emotional problems. "Many are adept at 'going to school', registering, then absconding, before returning home just when everyone else is leaving school," he says. "It can be some time before a child is caught out — or a parent contacted. Often, the parents are shocked right when they find out."

Why don't these children want to go to school? Mr Gale says boredom is one of the main reasons. He also points to the lure of outside activities, to bullying, pupils who cannot cope with the classroom environment and pressure from classmates to "run with the rest of the crowd." He adds: "There are also children who are kept at home by parents who crave their company."

Mr Gale says parents of truants usually begin by talking to the class teacher and head, perhaps with the child present, to see why the problem has arisen. "The emotional reasons have to be explored. If this does not help, parents should ask the school to refer them to the educational psychology service offered by most local authorities."

Other experts, such as Eric Halsall, head of a Worcestershire comprehensive school and a Secondary Heads' Association representative, believe in a tight lesson register system, which records pupils' attendances at individual classes, and co-operation with town businesses and services. "Ideally," he says, "a manager should feel able to phone the school if he or she notices pupils on his premises during class hours."

Fear of going to school is another area of concern. "Professional help is crucial," says Dr John Pearce, a senior lecturer in child psychiatry at Leicester University who is visiting several children referred to him by schools. "True school phobia is a child showing increased anxiety and tension the nearer he or she gets to school. There is also depression when a child simply does not want to go, perhaps because he has been upset by a particular teacher or classmate. And there is separation anxiety at being parted from a parent. This is particularly common with an only or youngest child."

Treatment for such cases might

include family therapy, insisting a child goes to school and faces his fears (a recognized treatment for phobias), or a more gradual approach — slowly re-introducing a child to the classroom.

Dr Pearce adds: "Occasionally, it might be necessary for a pupil to be transferred. But it is crucial not to ignore the problem; children who refuse to go to school often end up as adults with poor work records, higher marriage failure rates and a greater likelihood of undergoing psychiatric treatment."

Preventive treatment by parents can also help school-shy pupils, according to Emilia Dowling, a child psychologist with the child and family department of the Tavistock Clinic, London, and author of *Family and the School*.

"We receive several phone calls about non-attendance," she says. "With younger children, it often happens during transition from nursery to primary school. Parents need to prepare their children for the changes; the more a child can visualize, the better."

"Go over details like where they will hang their coat, what the playground is like, the fact that their friends will be different and

any other information you assume your child already knows."

"Parents should also watch what they say in front of their children. I had one client whose parents (one of whom was a former teacher) used to criticize the school in her hearing and say it was not stimulating enough. Eventually, the child did not want to go at all."

Like Dr Pearce, Ms Dowling often encourages a slow return to school. "I had one 12-year-old boy who reacted violently to being transferred from a small primary to a large secondary," she says. "He was scared by the number of children and by the journey. Instead of walking two blocks, he had a half-hour trek."

"He also had to carry a heavy musical instrument from one classroom to the other (many state schools have no cloakroom facilities), so he started going home after lunch (having first registered for afternoon classes) while his mother was at work."

"After he was found out and referred to me, I helped plan a timetable with the school to protect him against a rather unstructured climate. Gradually, he came to accept school life."

NOTEBOOK

Faint praise on appraisal

IN a remarkable piece of togetherness, all six teacher unions have united to tell John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, how they want him to introduce the appraisal of teachers. Mr MacGregor delayed the introduction of appraisal because he says schools and teachers were already hard-pressed in dealing with the other changes demanded by the education reform.

His critics believed, however, that he was unhappy with the recommendations of the national steering group, which proposed an expensive and complicated scheme designed to support and develop the careers of teachers — a far cry from a system to weed out unsatisfactory teachers, as demanded by many right-wingers.

Doug McAvoy, the new National Union of Teachers general secretary, said: "The unions will only accept a system of appraisal that supports teachers. It will not be acceptable if it is linked to merit pay or used as a means of dismissal or discipline. The appraisal report must remain private and not be available to school governors."

On the fringe

SOME of the most intriguing events are on the NUT conference fringe. The Socialist Teachers Alliance has had a speaker from the Birmingham Six Campaign and on Wednesday will deal with women and reproductive rights.

Equal rights

EQUAL rights are a recurring theme at the annual conference which is anxious to improve opportunities for boys and girls. The NUT's alternative National Curriculum calls for greater efforts to ensure that subjects such as maths, science and technology are made more "girl friendly" by using everyday situations which are familiar to girls. Boys, however, should be encouraged to take up modern languages for career prospects and travel.

In his place

THE man who is expected to hold the conference together has a relaxed view. When the going got too tough on the platform, NUT general secretary Doug McAvoy took his seat in the front row of the stalls in the Bournemouth centre and said: "I think I'll stay here."

David Tytler
Education Editor

School clocks on to a small business

Douglas Broom reports on the changing attitudes of the classroom entrepreneurs

Anyone attempting to gauge the success of the Conservative Government in changing the climate of thought in Britain would do well to spend some time in the classroom. Beneath the predictable moans about the National Curriculum and the rest of the Government's education reform programme runs an undercurrent of change as radical as anything that ministers have attempted to introduce.

Business, once a dirty word to many teachers, has not only stormed the education citadel, but won the hearts of its inhabitants. Since 1985, when the Department of Trade and Industry launched its Mini-Enterprise in Schools Project, attitudes among teachers have undergone a transformation.

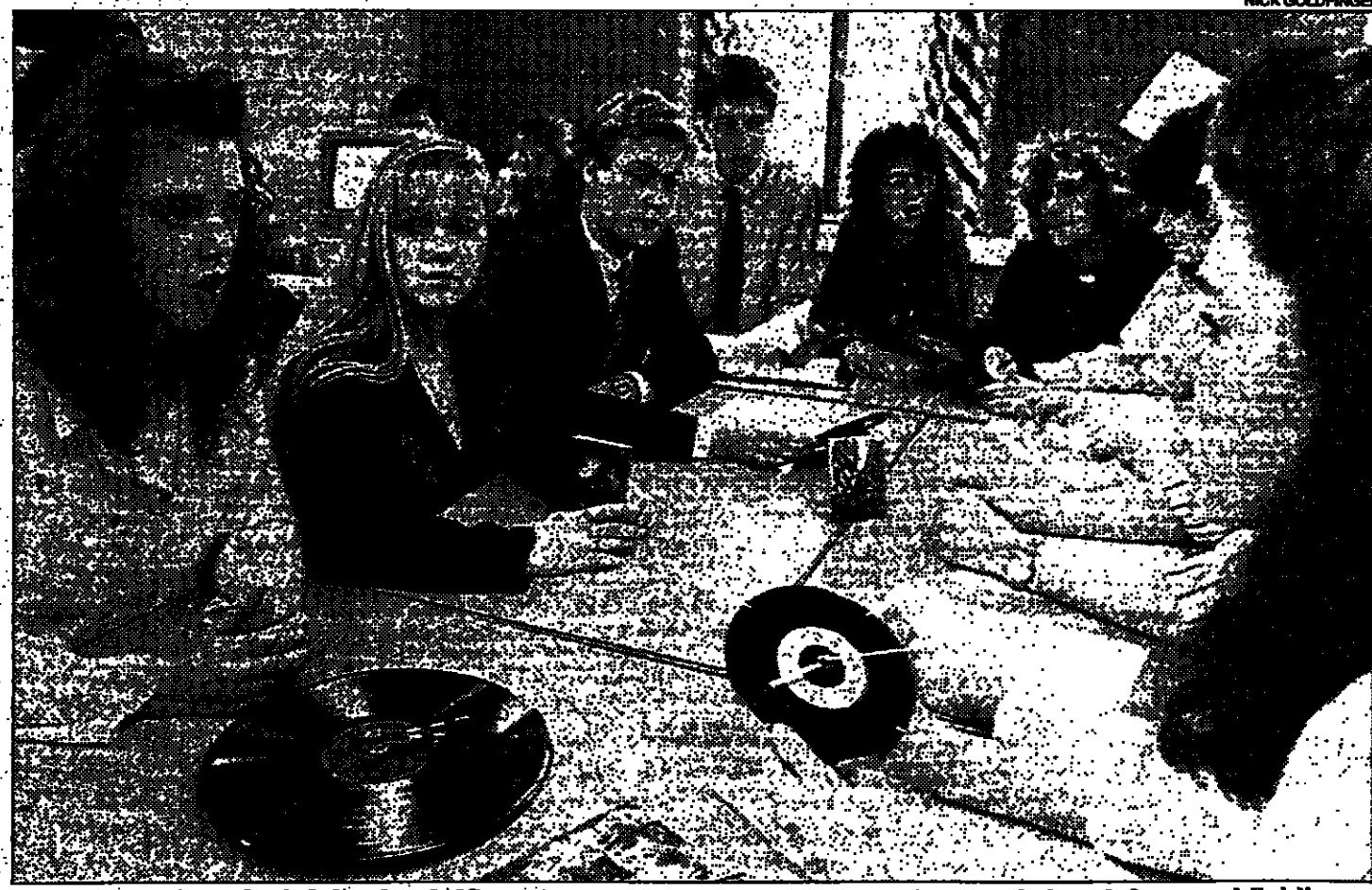
Anyone whose image of the archetypal sixth-former was gained before 1979 would be shocked to meet today's adolescents. Their attitudes to life have become as sharp as the creases in their trousers or skirts.

The change in outlook owes much to the general trend in youth opinion under Mrs Thatcher. Immature greying heads have been scratched during the past decade about the new-found "consumerism" of the young.

The children of the Fifties grew up believing that youth equaled rebellion. Today even the pop songs are about money and possessions.

At Palmers College, a sixth-form college at Grays, Essex, Trevor Briggs is unmoved by suggestions that his generation has sold out to capitalism, despite the fact that at the age of 17 he is already a company secretary. The school's small business, Sparxx Young Enterprise Company, is thriving. Its first share issue was over-subscribed.

"I don't think that we are selling out to capitalism at all," Trevor says. "Running the company is exciting and it will help tremendously in our future careers."



Down to business: the sixth-form board of Sparxx Young Enterprise Company discusses its quartz clock, made from remodelled discs

was launched after being carefully costed by the board of directors, all of whom are under 18. Apart from the quartz clock parts, the design, assembly and marketing are in the hands of the pupils.

"We have already a lot of people showing interest," says Trevor, who is studying economics, pure maths and computer science at A Level. In addition, he is following the college's "Into Management" course, developed by Peter Thomas, a senior teacher.

He says: "I am not aware of a similar model to this anywhere else in the country. It started because we asked the students if they wanted to do something like this, and got 60 applicants for the 20 places. The applicants were interviewed by local businessmen, who also give advice and support."

Before setting up the course, Mr Thomas was responsible for co-ordinating the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) at the college. Launched by Lord Young, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, TVEI was fiercely resisted by schools in its early days, with teachers scolding the Government of clipping industrial training into the curriculum.

It is a measure of the change in classroom attitudes that TVEI has been extended to every school in the land. The extra funding it

brings to make learning more relevant to the world of work is welcomed, and so are the ideas. Like their pupils, teachers appear to have been won over to the idea that preparing pupils for the world of work need not mean compromising standards or academic integrity.

Kevin Crompton, director of the Mini-Enterprise in Schools Project, has presided over a quantum leap in thinking. In September 1985, only about 25 per cent of schools attempted to run enterprise projects. Today the figure is more than 80 per cent, and 3,000 teachers are helping their pupils run mini-enterprises.

Even more heartening for Mr Crompton is the growth in enterprise education — courses or single lessons that teach pupils about wealth creation, business finance and economics. "Not only does it make them better potential businessmen and women, it makes them into better citizens," he says.

Despite this enviable degree of market penetration, the horizon is far from unclouded. Mr Crompton, who steps down later this month, fears that the National Curriculum will squeeze enterprise out of the curriculum.

That would be a sad fate for a subject whose very existence in the school timetable is perhaps the greatest testimony to the Government's success in shaking up attitudes in education.



Go-getter: Trevor Briggs, the company secretary of Sparxx

Take your partners for a ritual dance

The unions take to the floor for their regulation conference confrontations

THE ritual dances of Britain's classroom teachers are on again this week when the two biggest unions hold annual conferences with all the usual posturing and breast-beating. From Bournemouth and Scarborough will come calls for strikes and better pay. There will be protests against all the Government reforms, particularly the Local Management of Schools (LMS), which hands the day-to-day running of schools to heads and governors.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT) already has held a one-day pay strike to protest at the two-stage 8.3 per cent pay deal imposed by the Government, and there may be more to come.

Nigel de Gruchy, who will take over as general secretary of NAS/UWT at the end of the Scarborough conference, predicts sporadic protests over redundancies caused by LMS, but a more sustained campaign over pay. He says: "Strikes are almost inevitable over the next few years as I am sure the resentment will spread into other unions."

The most pressing problems facing us are poor pay and increased work load."

The NAS/UWT has instructed its members to put their preparation and classroom work at the top of their priorities and put the paper work to the bottom — a move which has been criticized by the other unions who have little love for Mr de Gruchy.

He says: "This will enhance the education of the children but will be bad for the bureaucrats at the Department of Education and Science and bad for the politicians who promised rash things from the Education Reform Act."

In a clear side-swipe at Doug McAvoy, the National Union of Teachers and its new general secretary, Mr de Gruchy says: "I am determined that we shall remain a union, although I realize that is unfashionable these days. But we are a genuine union and will not be transferred into an advertising agency."

Meanwhile, Mr McAvoy is busy involved in a high-risk strategy to give his union a more moderate image in the hope of winning more parental support. Starting with a redesign of the NUT's corporate image, he has also launched a £1 million advertising campaign designed to highlight the crisis facing the education system.

The advertising campaign is expected to draw sharp criticism from the hard left at Bournemouth

this week, as will his refusal to join the NAS/UWT strike. The biggest criticism, however, will be reserved for his bold scheme designed to reduce the influence of the hard left and head off the inevitable calls for fresh strikes. It promises to be a heated debate and the moderate executive will have to pull out all stops to win approval for a massive consultation exercise which would put power in the hands of individual union members at the expense of activists.

If the conference approves, union officials will hold a series of local meetings to ask teachers how they think the union should pursue its campaign for better pay and conditions. The results of the consultation exercise would be reported to a special conference on pay in the autumn which would endorse the measures favoured by the grassroots.

Mr McAvoy is anxious to free the union from the grip of the hard left which he believes is not representative of the union membership. He says fewer than half the members took part in the selection of motions for the conference.

"If democracy has to be based on members attending meetings then you will never get a representative picture of what members want," Mr McAvoy says.

The NUT pamphlet on teacher recruiting has been welcomed by John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, while he criticizes Mr de Gruchy for talking down teaching and effectively putting people off joining the profession.

Mr de Gruchy is unrepentant: "We refuse to suppress the truth just because it is inconvenient to the Government. If teaching was an attractive profession the Government would not have to employ Saatchi and Saatchi to con people into it. Advertising is no substitute for action."

Mr MacGregor has been busy building bridges with all the teacher unions and reserves most of his criticism for Mr de Gruchy. He says: "I think these moves are more to do with the numbers war with other unions than the real interests of the teaching profession. Their way of doing battle seems to be to try to grab the most strident headlines they can."

The success of Mr McAvoy's attempt to reform the NUT will determine largely how much help Mr MacGregor can expect.

David Tytler

PREVIEW

TODAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

NEW IN LONDON

GOLDEN DECADENCE: Selected prints from the richest decades of printmaking 1630-40, 1740-50, 1830-90 and 1920-30. Van Dyck, Canaletto, Whistler, Brockhurst and Schmidt-Rottluff are included. Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, 8 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-439 7823). Daily 10am-6pm, free, until April 21. From Tues.

SYDNEY HARPLEY RA: A series of figurative sculptures, dancers and girls on swings, by a popular artist who sells massively, up to £100,000 worth of casts, at Royal Academy Summer Shows. Chris Beetles Gallery, 8 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-439 7851). Daily 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 4. From Wed.

A NORTHERN SCHOOL: Works by 20th-century Lancashire artists who, like L.S. Lowry, focus mainly on the industrial landscape and gritty street scenes. George Eider, Alan Lowry, Max Stone and Harold Riley are among the 26 painters represented. Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (01-624 1126). Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, free, until May 26. From Thurs.

NANCY SPERO: New work by an American feminist artist. Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street, W1 (01-253 5375). Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, free, until May 26. From Thurs.

MASTERS FROM THE GELMAN COLLECTION: An astonishing collection of 81 important modern paintings of near-legendary status, such as Matisse's "Odalique" and Miró's "Animated Landscape". Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (01-439 7438). Daily 10am-6pm, £2.50, until July 15. From Sat.

CONTINUING

JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY (1734-1797): More than 100 paintings depicting dramatic, original scenes of workers, scientific experiments as well as the more traditional landscapes and portraits. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (01-821 7128). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, £3, until April 22.

LUCIAN FREUD, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DEACON: Works by two "old master" painters, some of them acquired recently (and very expensively), and no fewer than 16 sculptures by Turner Prize winner Richard Deacon. Saatchi Collection, 884 Boundary Road, NW8 (01 624 8298). Fri-Sat 12pm-5pm, free, until November.

FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION: Six hundred objects about the faking of art from all periods, from "wrong" Etruscan sculptures to bogus Hockneys. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-638 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, £3 (concs), until September 2.

IN OUR TIME: Photographs by Magnum agency photographers from founder members Cartier-Bresson and Capa to some of the best young photojournalists, Sebastian Salgado, Chris Steele-Perkins and Gilles Peress. Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-261 0127). Daily 10am-6pm, 24 (concs), until May 6.

PAINTING IN FOCUS: Winter Landscape by German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840), which was purchased for the nation last year, comes under acute scholarly scrutiny in comparison with other versions. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-638 3321). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 26.

OUTSIDE LONDON

ELIZABETH BLACKADDER RA: Still life paintings which delight in colour and pattern, charged with close observation, celebrating everyday objects. Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal (0539 722464). Mon-Fri 10.30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 17. From today.

ELIZABETH BLACKADDER RA: Still life paintings which delight in colour and pattern, charged with close observation, celebrating everyday objects. Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal (0539 722464). Mon-Fri 10.30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 17. From today.

VANESSA POOLEY: Seductive and melodramatic ceramic female figures. Davies Memorial Gallery, Newtown, Powys (0586 625041). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until May 15. From today.

JOHN CLERK OF ELDON: Romantic drawings and etchings of 18th-century Scotland. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh (031 556 8921). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 15. From Thurs.

ANDRZEJ JACKOWSKI: Large oils of lonely figures acting out strange myths and rituals in imagined landscapes. Scott Gallery, The University, Bailrigg, Lancaster (0524 65201). Mon-Fri 12-4.30pm (closed Wed), free, until May 11. From Fri.

JULIO GONZALEZ (1876-1942): A full exhibition of welded, semi-abstract sculptures by a Catalan artist considered the godfather of later innovators. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove (041 357 3929). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm, free, until June 3. From Sat.

PAST AND PRESENT: Drawings and paintings by contemporary artists, such as Leon Kossoff, Frank Auerbach and John Latham, based on Old Master pictures. Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Pengelli (0970 622652). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until May 13. From Sat.

BRUCE MCLEAN: Five new sculptures and a dance performance by an enterprising cynic who humorously explores (and exploits) concepts of art styles and their consumption. Amolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272-299191). Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm, Sun 12.30-6.30pm, free, until May 28.

PAUL KLEE: Five new sculptures and a dance performance by an enterprising cynic who humorously explores (and exploits) concepts of art styles and their consumption. Amolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272-299191). Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm, Sun 12.30-6.30pm, free, until May 28.

AUCTIONS, SALES

John Shaw

LONDON

FURNITURE FEAST: Major pieces including George III mahogany cylinder desk attributed to Ince and Mayhew (£50,000-£80,000), a new breakfast bookcase (£100,000-£150,000) and two gilt gesso side tables formerly belonging to the Showers family of Compton Castle, Somerset (£50,000-£80,000). Among several good screens is a scarlet, black and gilt Chinese export example decorated with figures (£50,000-£80,000). Christie's, 3 King Street, St James's, SW1 (01-439 9050). Viewing, tomorrow 9am-4.30pm, Wed 9am-4pm. Sale, Thurs 11am.

BRITISH PICTURE SALE: Stunning Ben Marshall racehorse portrait on Newmarket Heath, 1829 goes under starter's orders, estimated at £700,000-£1 million. Good range of royal pictures and Sir Francis Grant's celebrated portrait of his daughter Daisy (£150,000-£200,000). Christie's (as above). Viewing, tomorrow, Wed 9am-4.30pm, Thurs 9am-4pm. Sale, Thurs 11am.

AMAZON AUCTION APPEAL: Work donated by East End artists and children is to be auctioned in support of the Yonamoni Indians of the Brazilian rainforest. Jaguar Centre, 183-185 Whitechapel Road, E1 (01-981 8434). Viewing, Sat midday, Sale, Sat 5pm.

GALA EVENINGS: Patrons of the Olivier appeal have donated works of art, clothes, and theatrical memorabilia for a sale to raise £800,000 needed to renovate the Royal Court Theatre. Sotheby's at the Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (01-439 8328). Bazaar Sun midday-4pm, admission by souvenir catalogue £5; grand auction and entertainment: Sun 6pm-11pm, tickets £25-£50.

LONDON ANTIQUES AND COLLECTORS' FAIR: Antiques fairs thrive at holiday times and this year's event is said to be the best Easter antiques show in London. Wembley Exhibition Hall, Wembley Stadium (01-602 1234). Today, 11am-5pm, admission £2, refreshments.

PRINTS PARADE: Young collectors' chance to start with a wide variety of prints between £500-£1,000. Andy Warhol's 10 coloured silk screens "Campbell's Soup II", signed in ballpoint 1969, are strictly for the wealthy (£32,000-£38,000). Sotheby's, 34/35 New Bond Street, W1

Celebration of urban life



The photography of Louis Stettner is a comparatively recent discovery for me, although I cannot understand quite how I have previously overlooked this genius. He was born in Brooklyn in 1922 and is an admirer of Steiglitz and Paul Strand; he studied in Paris and elsewhere in Europe before returning to his native New York in the late 1940s. His best work is essentially about city people and the street life of the city, captured on the hoof with an astonishing verve and vivacity; almost every photograph is infused with an extraordinary sense of involvement. Stettner's people are never adjuncts to a predetermined outlook on humanity but a direct statement about the excitement of being alive. They are often on the move, such as the

tourists in a wintry 1952 Paris (see above) or they linger and kiss on street corners or pause in doorways, but always they are carefully and intuitively framed within their city environment. He is a humanist photographer who perhaps understands more than any other photographer today Cartier-Bresson's dictum of the decisive moment. Stettner's photographs are an unpretentious symphony to mankind, unaffected by any of the self-indulgent cant that clutters so much contemporary photography. The exhibition of his work is at the Kate Heller Gallery, 5 Silver Place, London NW1 (01-287 8328). Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm, Sat 11am-4pm, free. From Thursday until June 2.

Mike Young

(01-439 8080). Viewing, tomorrow, Wed 9am-4.30pm, Thurs 2pm, Fri 10am and 2pm.

COUNTRY LIFE: The dealers will be after two superb equestrian watercolours by Charles Johnson Payne who traded as Staffell (1894-1947) with estimates up to £20,000, but the top picture will be a charming Helen Allingham cottage scene (£20,000-£30,000).

PHILIPPA: 101 New Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6602). Viewing, Thurs 2-5pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 8.30am-midday, Sun 2-5pm. Sale, Mon 11am and 2.30pm.

BOOKS: An elegant pair of George III style mahogany book cases 3ft 4 inches wide, 7ft 4 and a half inches high, circa 1840 (£5,000-£7,000). Set of six Regency mahogany dining chairs are tucked away at £2,500-£3,000.

MOST Easter eggs will be no more than a pleasant memory now, but not so this magnificent jewelled, enamel Fabergé Easter egg (pictured here) which will be sold, for what should be an estimated £1m-£1.5m (£625,000-£937,000) at Christie's in New York on Thursday. This example is in translucent white enamel over an

interlacing white motif divided into 12 panels signifying love, music and art. The dividing bands are set with garnets and sea pearls. Known as the "Bonbonnière Egg", it opens to reveal an agate box or Bonbonnière containing another miniature egg enamelled with rosebuds and set with gold. Christie's, 502 Park Avenue, New York (0101 212 546 1000). Viewing, today, tomorrow 10am-5pm, Wed 10am-4pm. Sale, Thurs 10am.

Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, SW7 (01-884 9181). Viewing, tomorrow and Wed 8.45am-5pm, Thurs 8.45am-2pm. Sale, Thurs 2pm.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TRADITIONAL TOOLS: Four hundred lots of old carpentry and other craftsmen's tools will draw collectors in this rapidly expanding field.

Messengers, Sheep Street, Worcester, Oxfordshire (0869 252901). Viewing, morning of sale only. Sale, Thurs 10.45am.

JEWELLERY BOX: Look for two lovely shell enamel brooches and similar bangle (set £300-£500) silver and plate. Beaume's, Avenue Road, Torquay, Devon (0803 298277). Viewing, tomorrow-Wed 9.30am-5pm. Sale, Thurs 10am.

TRAVEL TO TAVISTOCK: Devon publican's family collection of 20 rare corncrakes, salt-glaze bunnies, silver and plated tankards and selection of drink including a bottle of 1906 Madeira. Robb Fanner & Co, The Stannary Gallery, Drake Road, Tavistock (0822 617799). Viewing, Thurs-Sun 2-5pm. Sale, Mon 11am.

CLAUDE CLIFF: Huge range of patterns by this designer, including many rarities; two circular art deco display cabinets and a Day and Nancy glass vase (£400-£500). A dream for the decorative arts.

Oldham Auction Sales, 37 Middle Hill, Englefield Green, Surrey (0784 339347). Viewing, tomorrow 8-9pm. Sale, North Warrington Village Hall, near Oldham, Wed 2pm.

Compiled by Kari Knight

© Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Tony Patrick, Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 6JN

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG): Amiable if whimsical comedy about time-travelling, woolly-headed teenagers. Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. Cinescape: Chelsea (01-362 5099) Oxford Street (01-530 0310) Pavilion Street (01-530 0310) Odeon: Kensington (01-622 5944/5) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905).

CAPTAIN JACK (U): Warring Australian children's film about a dead boy finding solace with the sea and an Italian immigrant. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647), Usher Wed.

McCABE AND MRS MILLER (18): Revival of Robert Altman's determinedly moody tale of a gambler (Warren Beatty) establishing a bordello in a mining town. Camden Place (01-485 2443).

SANTA SANGRE (18): Alejandro Jodorowsky's extraordinary, disturbing, blood-soaked fantasy set in a swirling circus. Metro (01-437 0757) Gate (01-727 4043).

UNCLE BUCK (12): Filmy comedy with John Candy as a ne'er-do-well taking care of his brother's children. Cinescape: Baker Street (01-635 9772) Fulham Road (01-370 2538) Shaftesbury Avenue (01-635 8861) Piazza (01-437 9339) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (U): Disappointed, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Camden Parkway (01-257 7034) Notting Hill Cinema (01-727 6705) Odeon: Leicester Square (01-630 6111) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Barbican (01-638 8891) Cinescape: Baker Street (01-635 9772) Empire (01-437 9889).

CELIA (15): Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a restrictive society. Striking debut by director Ann Turner. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Metro (01-437 0757).

CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWBOAT (18): Bold, flawed exhumation of a murderous crime spree in wartime London. Emily Lloyd, Kiefer Sutherland. Odeon West End (01-580 5252/7815).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema; a hugely appealing salute to the movie. Curzon Mayfair (01-465 8888).

COURAGE MOUNTAIN (U): Linn, spurious adventures of Jurgens. Spyn's heroine held in World War One. Cinescape: Chelsea (01-362 5099) Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Pavilion Street (01-630 6311).

DRIVING MISS DAUST (U): Jessica Tandy as the prickly Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2538) Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Pavilion Street (01-630 6311) Notting Hill Cinema (01-727 6705) Odeon: Kensington (01-622 5944/5) Leicester Square (01-630 6111).

DUST IN THE WIND: Traditions of songbirds in the big city. affectionate 1986 film by the Taiwanese master Hou Hsiao-hsien. ICA Cinema (01-630 3647).

ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY (15): Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life, skillfully filmed by Paul Mazursky. Ron Silver, Augustus M. Busch. Odeon Kensington (01-636 7087) Screen on the Hill (01-435 3268).

THE FABLES OF THE BAKER BOYS (15): Highly diverting farcical comedy about a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two con men (Jeff Bridges and Bruce Campbell). Camden Parkway (01-257 7034) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 6148/5) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Screen on Baker Street (01-365 2772) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

GLORY (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War; powerful performance by Laurence Fishburne. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3268).

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KID (U): Mischievous children, through their garden to safety. Engaging special-effects romp. Cannon Pavilion Street (01-636 6148) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

JERUS OF MONTREAL (18): Passion play trouble in Montreal. Obscure but elegant satire from director Dany Gheesbreght. Premiere (01-439 4478) Screen (01-437 6422).

MY LEFT FOOT (18): The Chelmsford schoolboy, with Owen Williams David Lewis and Brenda Ficker. Odeon Kensington (01-636 7087) Premiere (01-439 4478) Screen on Baker Street (01-636 6148) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (12): Infatigable comedy about an unemployed man and his talking baby. John Travolta, Keanu Reeves and Bruce Campbell. Cinescape: Chelsea (01-362 5099) Haymarket (01-439 1627) Odeon: Kensington (01-636 6111) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Screen on the Hill (01-435 3268) Warner West End (01-439 0791) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

THE RECRUITS (U): Disney cartoon from 1977, usually panned because of old studio traditions and contemporary urban satire. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2538) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 6148/5) Warner West End (01-439 0791) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE (18): Kiyoshi Kurosawa's powerful meditation of voyeurism and sexual failure. Premiere (01-439 4478) Screen (01-437 6422).

STRAPLESS (18): David Hare's intriguing drama about love, betrayal, and the unknown. Cannon West End (01-439 0791).

TANGO AND CASH (18): Preposterous thriller with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell as cops out to nab crime boss Jack Palance. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 6148/5) Fulham Road (01-370 2538) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324) Warner West End (01-439 0791).

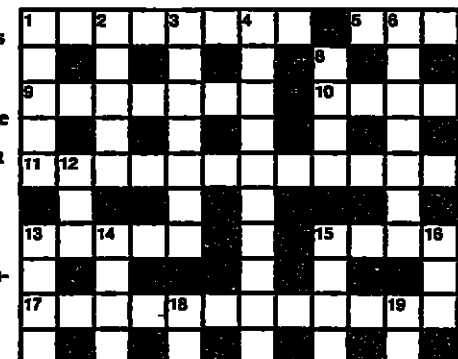
TROPIC OF CANTON (18): Grandiose epic tale between his wife and mistress. Sifted out for martial movies from Bertrand Tavernier. Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742) Lumiere (01-436 0891).

THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15): A perfect marriage will destruct violently. Edmundo Black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Camden Parkway (01-257 7034) Cannon: Chelsea (01-362 5099) Piccadilly (01-437 3561) Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Notting Hill Cinema (01-727 6705) Odeon: Kensington (01-622 5944/5) Leicester Square (01-630 6111).

SWISS COTTAGE (01-722 5905) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2153

- ACROSS
- 1 Hot medicinal soakings (8)
 - 5 Vomit (4)
 - 9 Open car cover (7)
 - 10 Official Indian language (5)
 - 11 Formidable assignment (9,4)
 - 13 Crossed (5)
 - 15 Myster (5)
 - 17 Somatic Verses author (6,7)
 - 21 Enigma variations composer (5)
 - 22 Showing agreement (7)
 - 23 Fancy dresser (4)
 - 24 Serving bottle (8)



- DOWN
- 1 Equal (5)
 - 2 Giver (5)
 - 3 Sexless (7)
 - 4 Dutch royal line (5,2,6)
 - 6 Arcade game (7)
 - 7 Crumpled (7)
 - 8 Avid (4)

SOLUTION TO CONCISE EASTER JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 Run rabbit rabbit run, run run 15 Entertain 16 In force 17 Ding-dong 18 Turpin 19 Glassblower 20 Roush 21 Belied out 22 Marmoset 24 Embroid 25 Inlets 27 Fertiliser 30 Depletion 34 Hippob 36 Bardenter 37 Attomment 39 Eases 40 Retract 41 Music 42 Explain 43 Trace to 44 Loser 46 Refused 48 Octet 49 Nauseated 50 Chamber 52 Not well 54 Evil with 57 Unreliably 58 Odessa 61 Oregon 62 Marmoset 63 Overmuch 65 Dormant 66 Impenetrable 71 Excess 72 Aborigine 73 Utimate 74 Sum-cingle 75 Everything but the kitchen sink

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ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 356 3161 @ 2400
THE KIROV BALLET
 7.30pm (Free)
 8.30pm (Free)
COLISEUM 356 3161 @ 2400
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240
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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Penny OsbornA matter
of
taste

Not many BBC Bristol nature programmes begin their story in Ancient Rome, but there is nothing conventional about *The Incredible Edible Domestics* (BBC1, 8pm). It was the Romans who first found a place for this roguish rodent on a menu. As they consumed all sorts of creatures which are no longer considered digestible, let alone a delicacy, it comes as a surprise that a Mancunian butcher breeds, slaughters and sells this type of dormice at £84 a pair. Apparently they taste of upmarket guinea pig. Lord Rothschild brought the nocturnal, long-tailed *grisi* over from Hungary in 1902, ever since when it has been proliferating through the Home Counties. Britain's

Diana Rigg narrates: bedtime-story voice-over (BBC1, 8pm).

least-known mammal is gradually introducing itself to the human population, occupying attics, feasting in apple sheds, chewing its way through forests, electrical wiring, organ pipes, car engines and just about anything else it can sink its indestructible teeth into. What with the tongue-in-cheek presentation and Diana Rigg's bedtime-story voice-over, you can be forgiven for wondering why this programme is being broadcast on Easter Monday as to opposed to April Fool's Day, but the usual high standard of photography persuades you that this protected pest really does exist.

An entire evening is given over to Nelson Mandela - An International Tribute (BBC2, 5.45pm), tonight's five-hour musical shindig at Wembley Stadium. Not being the kindest of rock venues for people who actually attend, probably the best place to watch the whole show is in front of your television, where at least you are assured of a decent view. Performers include Tracy Chapman, Natalie Cole, Peter Gabriel, Neil Young, Natalie Cole, Miriam Makeba, Simple Minds and Liza Minnelli. Lenny Henry, Ben Elton and Doreen Lacey will address the assembled company towards the end of the proceedings.

In Italian Regional Cookery (BBC2, 5.15pm) Valentina Harris, who is half-Italian herself, takes the viewer on a highly personal tour of the country's various local cuisines. In part two, it is the turn of the cliff-hanging vines of Liguria and the Parma, Parmesan and pasta of Emilia Romagna.

The Miniature Makers (Channel 4, 9pm) is a study of a traditional Indian art and its modern practitioners. Once patronized by royalty, today's miniaturists have to rely on tourists for their trade. They use genuine materials, one reason why the product does not seem to have diminished in quality. There are many remarkably beautiful examples to prove it.

- 6.00** *Contest*, regional news and weather
7.15 *Easter Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin and Andi Peters, begins with a special series (7.40) *The Pink Panther Show*
8.00 *News*, regional news and weather
8.15 *Shogun*, cartoon adventures from Coral Island 8.45 *Cartoon*
8.45 *Cartoon*, two Western Brothers Classics, *Love and Curious* and *Count Me Out* 8.55 *Regional news and weather*
9.00 *News* and weather followed by *Defenders of the Earth*, animated science fiction adventures 9.30 *Why Don't You...?* 7.40 *Cartoon* series incorporating entertaining ideas for youngsters at a loose end
9.50 *Heathcliff with Cats* and *Go*, cartoon fun with the fast alley cat on a menu
10.15 *Peep and the Big Wide World*, the last in the series of animated adventures of a young chick 10.30 *Playdays* 10.55 *Five to Eleven* A reading for Easter by Jean Marsh
11.00 *Planet* (1984) starring Tom Burlinson, Martin Vaughan and Ron Latham. The sentimental story of the legendary racehorse who became the idol of thousands of Australians in the 1930s. Despite his good breeding, Phar Lap was a failure on the race track but his trainer and young groom never lost faith in the creature and together they nursed him into a champion. An entertaining chronicle directed by Simon Winchester
12.45 *Woody Woodpecker Double Bill*, 12.50 *Regional news and weather*
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Chris Lowe, weather 1.15 *Neighbours*, another dose of Australian suburban drama (Ceefax)
1.35 *Quadrant* introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 1.35 *Basketball*: the Carlsberg National championship final from the NEC Birmingham; 2.15 and 4.00 *Snooker*: first round action from the Embassy World Professional championship; 2.45 *Judo*: the British Open championships in London; 3.00 *Ice Hockey*: Murrayfield Rovers v. H. Flyers in Edinburgh; 3.50 *Football*: half-times; 4.35 *Final Score*
4.55 *News* with Chris Lowe, weather
5.15 *Regional news and weather*
5.30 *Neighbours* (Ceefax)
6.45 *Planet Saturday Night Fever* (1977) starring John Travolta, Karen Lynn Gorney and Barry Miller. A young man from Brooklyn who lives for the weekend and dancing takes up with a girl who has her sights set on higher things. Travolta's 70s-style suits look absurd but if you can overlook the white flares you'll enjoy the exciting dance numbers and the memorable soundtrack. Slickly directed by John Badham
7.30 *Wagon on Ice*, Terry is joined by ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean who perform two spectacular numbers - their first appearance on the ice in the UK since 1985. Lady Olivia - actress Joan Plowright - is also a guest
8.00 *The Incredible Edible Domestics* (Ceefax) (see choice)
8.30 *John Account*. So so comedy starring Hannah Gordon as a bank manager and Peter Egan as her underemployed husband (Ceefax)
9.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Suert, regional news and weather
9.30 *Planet* (1984) starring Jeff Bridges and Glenn Close. Howard Lawton Glenn Close falls in love with the newspaper publisher she is defending - who may or may not be guilty of murdering his wife. Tense, suspenseful drama and an unexpected twist or two make this a thriller you cannot turn your back on. Directed by Richard Marquand (Ceefax)
11.00 *The Rock 'n' Roll Years*. The irresistible combination of music and archive news footage continues with the year 1959. Castro took over Cuba, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet, monkeys were sent into space and Russia Corbin, Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury and Ray Charles were making the music
11.35 *International Cricket*. Highlights of the fourth day's play in this County Championship Test between the West Indies and England from St John's, Antigua, introduced by Tony Lewis
12.00am *Advice Shop*. A poll tax appraisal by Helen Maddrell and Hugh Scully (r)
12.35 *Weather*

- 6.00** *TV-am* begins with News followed by *Mad Glamorous Mad*, a RSPB film 6.30 *Animals in Action*: *Water of Life* narrated by Keith Shackleton
7.00 *Weekend Easter Monday* Special presents by Timmy Mallett starting with an animated version of Tom Sawyer
9.25 *Cross Wits*. Tom O'Connor hosts the game show for crossword addicts
9.55 *Five Ernest Goes to Camp* (1987) starring Jim Varney. A very unfunny so-called comedy about an obnoxious dimwit whose ambition it is to be a summer camp counsellor. Directed by John R. Cherry III
11.30 *Ice Skating*. Nick Owen presents coverage of the Skate Electric British Challenge from Bracknell where the country's leading young skaters have an opportunity to display their considerable talent and skill
12.30 *Home and Away*. Australian drama serial about a couple and their five foster children
1.00 *News* at One with Nicholas Owen, weather
1.05 *Planet* (1988). Franco Zeffirelli's screen version of Verdi's opera. Filmed on location in Crete and southern Italy, the camera work is stunning and the cast are in fine voice, particularly Placido Domingo in the title role. With Katia Ricciarelli as the title character and Justino Diaz as the evil Iago. Italian with English subtitles
4.10 *Heavy Horses*. A case for the return of the heavy horse is given by Devon farmer, Charlie Barker. His argument is that horses are more versatile, economic and environment-friendly than tractors. First shown on BBC South West
4.40 *World Snooker*. David Vine with further first-round coverage of the Embassy World Championship from Sheffield. This afternoon's players include Stephen Hendry, Tony Chappell, Mike Hallett and Steve Newbury
5.15 *Italian Regional Cookery*. Valentina Harris continues her culinary trip through Italy. This week she visits Liguria, Bologna and Parma (Ceefax) (see choice)
5.45 *Nelson Mandela - An International Tribute*. A concert to honour the recently released anti-apartheid leader, live from Wembley Arena. Mandela will be in the audience to watch a host of international musicians perform including Anita Baker, Tracy Chapman, Natalie Cole, Peter Gabriel, Miriam Makeba, Simple Minds, James Stewart and Neil Young. The show is hosted by Lenny Henry and Denzel Washington (see choice)
10.15 *Planet Snooker*. David Vine with an update from the Crucible
12.00 *Weather*

- 6.40** *Flash Gordon* (b/w). Starring Buster Crabbe (r)
9.00 *Film: A Lady Takes a Chance* (1943, b/w). A New York office girl, holidaying out West, falls for a musician. But surprisingly she misses the bus back to New York. Unusual comedy coupling of Jean Arthur and John Wayne with a few more laughs provided by Phil Silvers as the tour bus driver. Directed by William Seiter
10.35 *World Snooker*. Day four of the Embassy World Professional championship and the first round continues with Terry Griffiths concluding his match against Nigel Gilbert and Joe Johnston starting his campaign against Darren Morgan. A new edition introduced by Alan Titchmarsh from Coventry (Ceefax)
1.20 *Green Glens*. Gardening monster fun for children, presented by Nick Mercer and Stella Goddard (r)
1.35 *Planet* (1988). A new edition introduced by Alan Titchmarsh from Coventry (Ceefax)
2.10 *Film: Othello* (1988). Franco Zeffirelli's screen version of Verdi's opera. Filmed on location in Crete and southern Italy, the camera work is stunning and the cast are in fine voice, particularly Placido Domingo in the title role. With Katia Ricciarelli as the title character and Justino Diaz as the evil Iago. Italian with English subtitles
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12.00 *Weather*

- 6.00** *Hallelujah* Hot gospel music (r)
6.30 *Feeling Good* Book 4.45 *Shogun* with the stars of the 1930s and 1940s 7.05 *Captain America* 7.25 *Spiderwoman* 7.50 *Moonlight*
9.25 *Film: A Dog's Life* (1918, b/w) starring Charlie Chaplin in the classic silent short about a tramp and his pooch helping each other out. Directed by Charles Chaplin
10.10 *Animation* on 4: *Everybody Rides a Carousel* followed by *Hello and Animation Pie*
12.00 *Parade*. The Theatre: The dancing Princesses. Romantic but humorous *Grimm* fairy tale starring Lesley Ann Warren
1.00 *Sesame Street*
2.00 *Interviewing*. Open College series on interviewing skills (r) (Teletext)
2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* From Kempton Park and Farnborough. The 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.15 from Kempton and the Jameson Irish Grand National from Farnborough at 3.55
4.30 *Fitmen-to-One*
5.00 *Film: Cours du Soleil* (1987). Jacques Tati stars in this short as his most famous character, M. Hulot, giving a night-school talk to middle-aged students. Directed by Jacques Tati
5.35 *Film: Parade* (1974) starring Jacques Tati as the ring-master of a small circus. Written and directed by him, the work contains some of his finest mime
6.55 *News* and weather
7.00 *Hostages*. A documentary which investigates the motives of the Hezbollah kidnappers, the captives' harrowing conditions and their families' heartache (r)
8.00 *Brookside*. Suburban Merseyside drama (Teletext)
8.30 *Weekend*. The Year Itch. Last in the unscripted comedy series set around a West Indian barber and his regulars (Teletext)
9.00 *The Miniature Makers*. (Teletext) (see choice)
10.00 *Europe*. This last in the competing police drama series focuses on a Rome policeman's fight against a drug gang that uses children as pushers. Subtitled
11.00 *Women Call the Shots*. The Family. Russian drama showing one day's pressures on a Georgian woman desperate to finish a report. Subtitled
11.30 *Will You Come to the Ball?* Soviet documentary on the training of very young gymnasts and the physical and psychological after-effects. Subtitled
12.05am *Film: Several Interviews on Personal Problems* (1978) starring Sophia Loren as a Georgian woman trying to juggle a career, family duty and relationships. Award-winning Soviet movie directed by Lana Gogoberidze. Ends at 1.50

- 6.00am** *DJ Kar 6.30* Panel Pot Pourri
10.00 *The New Price is Right* 10.30 *The Young Doctors* 11.00 *Sky by Day* 12.00 *Another World* 12.50pm *As the World Turns* 1.45 *Loving 2.15* A Problem Shared 2.45 *Thursdays* 3.00 *Cricket* 3.30 *England* 4.15 *Test* from Angou 10.35 *Jamison* 11.30 *Bonny*
- SKY NEWS**
News on the hour.
5.00am *International Business Report*
5.30 *The FBI* 6.00 *International Business Report* 6.30 *The World* 6.50 *The* *Millennium Memorial Service* 10.30 *Our World* 11.30 *The Reporters* 1.30pm *NBC Today* 2.30 *Beyond 2000* 3.30 *The Reporters* 4.30 *NBC Today* 5.00 *Live at Five* 6.30 *Beyond 2000* 7.30 *The Reporters* 8.30 *The FBI* 9.30 *Newsline* 10.30 *Our World* 11.30 *NBC News* 12.30 *NBC News* 3.30 *The FBI* 4.30 *Beyond 2000*
- SKY MOVIES**
From 8.00am *The Shopping Channel*
All films will be screened
2.00pm *September* (1989) *Mia Farrow* stars in Woody Allen's drama about a weekend in a Vermont country house
4.00 *Flight of the Navigator* (1986) *A 12-year-old boy* is abducted by aliens, and returns eight years later
6.00 *Looking for Miracles* (1988) *Drama* set in the 1930s, in which a 16-year-old boy wins a job as a summer camp counsellor for his college fees
8.00 *Milk & Honey* (1987) *A spoiled rich girl* (Aly Sheedy) is forced to work as a maid for a grumpy Beverly Hills couple
10.00 *Best Seller* (1987) *Thriller*, in which a top-turned-author (Brian Dennehy) is approached by an ex-hit man (James Woods) with the story of a lifetime
11.45 *Freddy's Nightmares* (1989) *With Robert Englund* as Freddy Krueger
1.00am *At the Movies* *Cinema releases*
4.00 *Capone Behind Bars* *The story of gangster Al Capone's time spent in Alcatraz prison. Ends at 5.35am*
- EUROSPORT**
6.00am *The DJ Kar Show* 6.30 *Circus World Championships* 8.30 *Football* 11.00 *Film: The 1954 World Cup* 12.45pm *Shogun* 1.45 *World Cup* 2.45 *Shogun* 3.45 *World Cup* 4.45 *Shogun* 5.45 *World Cup* 6.45 *World Cup* 7.45 *World Cup* 8.45 *World Cup* 9.45 *World Cup* 10.45 *World Cup* 11.45 *World Cup* 12.45 *World Cup*
- MTV**
6.00am *Kristiane Backer* 10.30 *At the Movies* 11.00 *Remote Control* 11.30 *Kristiane Backer* 12.00 *Saturday Night Live* 12.30pm *MTV Spotlight* *Rock* 1.00 *Afternoon Mix* 4.00 *3 from 1* 4.15 *Afternoon Mix* 4.30 *Coca-Cola Report* 4.45 *Afternoon Mix* 4.50 *MTV's Greatest Hits* 5.30 *At the Movies* 7.00 *Saturday Night Live* 7.30 *New Visions* *SoulFunk* 8.00 *MTV Spotlight* 8.30 *XPO* 9.00 *The Phil Collins Serious Video Show* 10.00 *Coca-Cola Report* 10.15 *MTV's Greatest Hits* 11.00 *Headbangers Ball* 11.00 *MTV's Greatest Hits*
- SCREENSPORT**
7.00am *Spanish Football Highlights* 7.30 *Rugby League* 9.00 *Wide World of Sport* 10.00 *Powersports* 10.10 *Tennis* 12.30pm *Inoy Car* 2.30 *French Rugby League* 4.00 *Polo World* 4.30 *Tennis* 6.00 *Basketball* 7.30 *Baseball* 9.15 *US Boxing* 10.45 *US Pro Bowlers* *11.00 US Ski Tour* 12.00 *US Pro Ski Tour*
- LIFESTYLE**
10.00am *Jako's Fitness Minute* 10.01 *Search For Tomorrow* 10.30 *Short Cuts* 10.35 *Wok With Yan* 11.00 *Coffee Break* 11.10 *The Edge of Night* 11.35 *The Great American Gameshow* 12.00pm *What's Cooking?* 12.55 *Sally Jessy Raphael* 1.45 *Skyways* 2.40 *Search For Tomorrow* 3.05 *Tea Break* 3.15 *Target: The Computers* 4.05 *Always* 4.30 *It's Your Lifestyle* 4.40 *The Great American Gameshow* 5.00 *The Self-Vision Shopping Channel*
- Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
6.00am *Gary King* 7.00 *The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show* 8.30 *Simon Bates* 12.30pm *Newsbeat* 12.35 *Gary's Easter Eggstravaganza* 2.00 *Steve Wright* 3.00 *Adrian Jervis* 5.30 *Newsbeat* 6.35 *Amanda Mandella* 6.40 *Freddie Mercury* 6.50 *Nelson Mandela* 7.00 *Simon Bates* 8.00 *Adrian Jervis* 9.00 *Simon Bates* 10.00 *Nicky Campbell* 12.00-2.00pm *Bob Harris*

RADIO 2

FM Stereo
6.00am *On the hour* (3.00pm) **7.00** *Simon Bates* 8.00 *Adrian Jervis* 9.00 *Simon Bates* 10.00 *Nicky Campbell* 12.00-2.00pm *Bob Harris*

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.
6.00am *World Service* 6.30 *Morning* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *24 Hours* 8.00 *News* 8.30 *World Service* 9.00 *News* 9.30 *World Service* 10.00 *News* 10.30 *World Service* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *World Service* 12.00 *News* 12.30 *World Service* 1.00 *News* 1.30 *World Service* 2.00 *News* 2.30 *World Service* 3.00 *News* 3.30 *World Service* 4.00 *News* 4.30 *World Service* 5.00 *News* 5.30 *World Service* 6.00 *News* 6.30 *World Service* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *World Service* 8.00 *News* 8.30 *World Service* 9.00 *News* 9.30 *World Service* 10.00 *News* 10.30 *World Service* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *World Service* 12.00 *News* 12.30 *World Service* 1.00 *News* 1.30 *World Service* 2.00 *News* 2.30 *World Service* 3.00 *News* 3.30 *World Service* 4.00 *News* 4.30 *World Service* 5.00 *News* 5.30 *World Service* 6.00 *News* 6.30 *World Service* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *World Service* 8.00 *News* 8.30 *World Service* 9.00 *News* 9.30 *World Service* 10.00 *News* 10.30 *World Service* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *World 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Moscow's midnight bells ring out for Easter

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

ON THE stroke of midnight all the bells began ringing, the bishops and metropolitans in their gorgeous robes processed out in triumph and the quavering voices of the *bahushki* joined the vibrant bass chants of the priests soaring to the magnificent golden dome of Moscow's Epiphany Cathedral.

Russia celebrated Easter with a reverence and mystery that has marked the holiest day of the Orthodox calendar for more than 1,000 years. This year, however, the official atheist communist state also joined in: two television channels carried the entire service live, while the third showed an Italian film on the life of Christ.

Newspapers were filled with the Easter message of Patriarch Pimen, the police cordoned off streets and set up

pedestrian areas to allow worshippers thronging the dangerously packed churches to celebrate in the open air. Even Tass noted that thousands flocked to services on Saturday night, as "religious feelings run deep in many Soviet citizens".

The rituals, of course, were observed with unchanging ceremony. The services began with Lent mourning for the crucified Christ, changing to the joyful celebration of "Christos voskres" - Christ is risen - as people with candles walked around the churches. Diplomats and foreigners, ushered to the front by police and given privileged treatment as usual, were caught in the surging, almost frightening crowds.

On Easter Day hundreds of thousands - young people in jeans, old women in headscarves, smartly-dressed middle-class families, workers clutching battered bags and sometimes red-faced from drink - streamed to the cemeteries for traditional remembrance visits.

At Vagankoye, a huge tree-shaded walled cemetery where some of Moscow's most famous cultural figures lie, the atmosphere was almost like a football match. A great mound of tulips, carnations, sprigs of pine and whatever could be bought from hawkers outside, covered the grave of Vladimir Vysotsky, the balladeer and bitter-sweet chronicler of Russia's sufferings and hopes who has been virtually canonized since his early death in 1980.

Crowds also pressed round the white marble memorial to Sergei Yesenin, the poet and lover of Isadora Duncan, who killed himself in 1925. In a further part of the cemetery people sought out a more recent cultural hero - Maris Liepa, one of the greatest Bolshoi dancers who died last year. Each grave, stretching row after row and surrounded by iron fences and with headstones bearing photographs or engravings of the deceased, had been cleaned and laid with fresh flowers, coloured eggs, libations of vodka and other offerings. People pressed in the warm spring sun round the little church near the cemetery entrance in the vain hope of getting in.

Easter normally marks the start of spring in Russia, though this year the warm weather came early. It also falls just before the great state-sponsored clean-up, normally held in honour of a more secular god, Lenin.



Above: The Pope delivering his Easter Day message, "Urbi et Orbi" to a packed St Peter's Square in the Vatican while in Moscow, below: Russian Orthodox Christians celebrate midnight Mass in the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Epiphany. (Leipzig's walk with Goethe, page 9)

Call to privatize Church of England

By Alan Hamilton

PRIVATIZING the Church of England is the only way to reverse its decline, according to the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs.

An article in the institute's journal said that the clergy should be regarded as a 10,000-strong sales force established on prime sites throughout Britain and should be paid on performance, depending on how many customers they bring into church.

Mr Russell Lewis, the author, said that privatization would set free many energies of private religious enterprise now dormant.

Any takeover bidder for the Church would not dwell on crumbling cathedrals and falling rolls but would look at his sales force of 10,000 priests and would ask how quickly he could induce these highly-trained professionals to "go into the highways and byways and compel them to come in".

In an unconventional Easter message apparently taken from the Gospel according to St Margaret, Mr Lewis, a journalist, said that democratic centralism in the Church has all but destroyed the structure of economic incentives through which individual priests were once encouraged to seek their own advancement.

"Bureaucratic control has made the Anglican Church inert and grappled it with a negative power which absorbs, drains and sterilizes the energies of its members."

"Committees and quangos attempt to justify their existence by issuing intellectually second-rate reports on secular affairs which they address with neither distinction nor authority, but merely echo fashionable cant."

"The central Christian purpose of helping individuals to save their own souls has been ditched in favour of collective salvation in the present."

On finances, Mr Lewis said that donations increasingly take the form of covenants which are paid regardless of whether churches are empty or full. The vicar's remuneration is based, not on his efforts, but on a national scale.

"Like the French army facing Hitler, the Church has a Maginot Line complex and its outlook is defensive and defeatist. Bureaucratic control has made it inert."

He said that the Church of England is run for the benefit, not of customers but of the staff. Quality has declined as Church membership has fallen from 2.54 million in 1970 to 1.93 million in 1987. He said non-Trinitarian churches increased membership from 278,000 to 418,000 over the same period.

Rancie services, page 14

Problems for Nato summit

Continued from page 1

future of the Nato alliance in the light of Europe's changed circumstances. But they could not do things on their own.

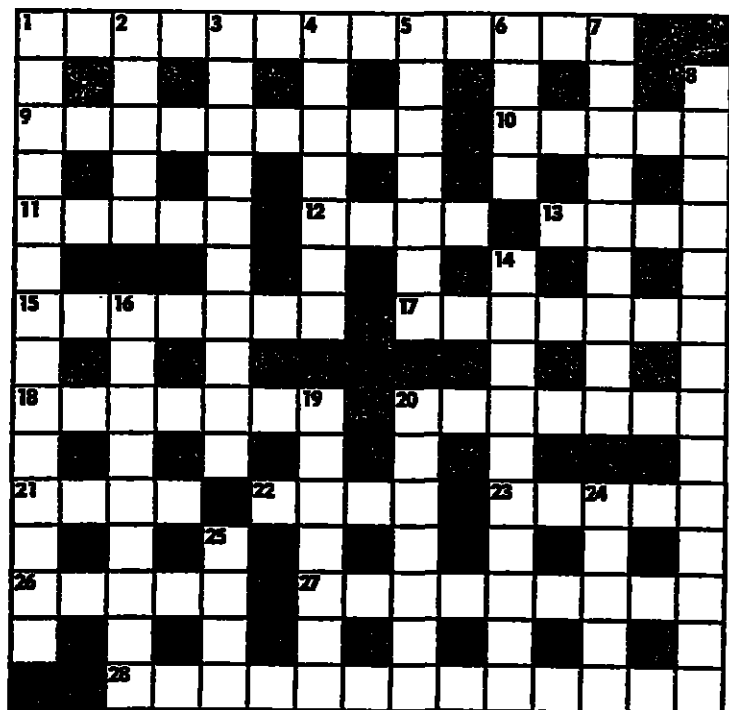
Mrs Thatcher plans to fly to Turin to address the foreign ministers' Nato meeting on her way to see Mr Gorbachev in Kiev that weekend.

The Prime Minister refused to acknowledge publicly in Bermuda that she has ended her insistence on the updating of the ground-launched short-range Lance nuclear missile sticking to the past communiqué formula that such a decision is one for Nato.

Mrs Thatcher does not want Britain to be the only European member of Nato offering facilities for air-launched nuclear weapons and she sees the acceptance by a newly unified Germany of some nuclear weapons in its soil as an important test of the country's commitment to Nato and to the Western way of life its people have voted to join.

Such problems are stacking up, and officials in most main Nato countries recognize that the reunification of Germany and the changes in Eastern Europe require early consideration of the armaments, troop dispositions and future architecture of Nato itself by the 16 nations in concert.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,269



ACROSS

- 1 Getting better conscience after 1 left without a word of farewell (13).
- 9 Tripe cooked with peas for a hors-d'oeuvre (9).
- 10 Composition of a witticism - and in Latin (5).
- 11 Votes against and for the poet (5).
- 12 Notes in front (4).
- 13 Fratricide one put in prison (4).
- 15 Soldier enters a pub - that's reasonable (7).
- 17 Transport system takes on Greek character to provide air passages (7).
- 18 Time of one's life chasing a bird in this resort (7).
- 20 For Drummond it's uncommonly dull in peat country (7).

DOWN

- 2 A capital lot of players, too! (4).
- 22 What the peer uses for duelling (4).
- 23 A beast, to ruin a trip (5).
- 26 The hum of a bee (5).
- 27 Refuse car modification to avoid damage from rutted roads (9).
- 28 Pretenders to the Baratarian throne (3,10).
- 1 Centrally spacious UK resorts (7,7).
- 2 Nimble, like Jack Frost (5).
- 3 Lion is a cat violently opposed to mankind (10).
- 4 "I have been half in love with Death" (Keats) (7).
- 5 Grain a horse found in a pipe (4-3).
- 6 How unfeeling to upset a French doctor! (4).
- 7 Literally The Fourth Door describes the subject of hypnosis (9).
- 8 Instructions to bankers - to pay for customers' drinks? (8,6).
- 14 Security for money subsequently found in fossil fuel (10).
- 16 Plant yielding salt grows wild (9).
- 19 Grass makes part of its contents (7).
- 20 Fortunate to have a smaller amount in retirement (7).
- 24 Name this river outside one's front door (5).
- 25 Study, say, this ancient advice (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,268 will appear next Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

KALONG

a. The morally beautiful

b. A Malaysian basketball

c. The fruit bat

DOTTED

a. Impaired by age

b. Having a dowry

c. Devoted to be wished

TRANSUMANCE

a. Shift of grazing

b. The migration of souls

c. The whole human race

FUCHA

a. The evening primrose

b. A Buddhist service week

c. Wasting company time

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733

M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

East Anglia 740

Midlands 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 20

WEATHER

England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have a day of sunny intervals and showers. The showers will be widespread by the afternoon and heavy in places, with some hail or sleet over hills in the north and west of England and Wales. Scotland will have a showery day, with the heaviest falling as sleet or snow. There will be gales in the north and west. Outlook: sunny intervals and showers.

ABROAD

MEDIAN: 1-thunder; 2-dizzle; 3-fog; 4-snow; 5-sleet; 6-snow; 7-fair; 8-cloud; 9-rain

C F C F

Algeria 14 55 14 55

Alexandria 19 66 19 66

Athens 18 64 18 64

Bahia 22 72 22 72

Bombay 22 72 22 72

Buenos Aires 19 66 19 66

Calcutta 22 72 22 72

Cairo 19 66 19 66

Cardiff 19 66 19 66

Chennai 22 72 22 72

Copenhagen 19 66 19 66

Dublin 19 66 19 66

Edinburgh 19 66 19 66

Geneva 19 66 19 66

Hamburg 19 66 19 66

Harbin 22 72 22 72

Helsinki 19 66 19 66

Hong Kong 22 72 22 72

London 19 66 19 66

Los Angeles 19 66 19 66

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Nairobi 19 66 19 66

Paris 19 66 19 66

Peking 22 72 22 72

Rangoon 19 66 19 66

Rome 19 66 19 66

Sao Paulo 19 66 19 66

Seoul 19 66 19 66

Shanghai 22 72 22 72

Singapore 22 72 22 72

Sydney 19 66 19 66

Taipei 19 66 19 66

Tokyo 19 66 19 66

Warsaw 19 66 19 66

Washington 19 66 19 66

Yokohama 22 72 22 72

Zurich 19 66 19 66

St Petersburg 19 66 19 66

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Tallinn 19 66 19 66

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Krasnoyarsk 19 66 19 66

Yekaterinburg 19 66 19 66

Novokuznetsk 19 66 19 66

Chelyabinsk 19 66 19 66

Sverdlovsk 19 66 19 66

Perm 19 66 19 66

Kazan 19 66 19 66

Samara 19 66 19 66

Ufa 19 66 19 66

Alma-Ata 19 66 19 66

Bishkek 19 66 19 66

Dushanbe 19 66 19 66

Tashkent 19 66 19 66

Samarkand 19 66 19 66

Bukhara 19 66 19 66

Xitoy 19 66 19 66

Uzbekistan 19 66 19 66

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Call to private Church England

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-24
● LAW 25
● SPORT 26-34

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

MONDAY APRIL 16 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewster
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6425 (+0.0040)
W German mark
2.7487 (-0.0286)
Exchange index
87.0 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1741.0 (+0.8)
FT-SE 100
222.1 (+1.0)
USM (Datastream)
140.82 (-0.47)

Jury is still out in the water meter trials

By Graham Seargeant
Financial Editor

THE prospect of a hot dry summer will evoke mixed feelings in the Isle of Wight, where one of the most extensive water metering trials in the country threatens to change the habits of summer. The springtime filling of the garden pool has become a potentially agonising consumer choice and watering the flower beds against drought a decision affecting the family budget.

Under the experimental charging system introduced by Southern Water, each extra cubic metre of water used above an annual 90 cubic metres costs the consumer 111.5p, equivalent to 11p a bath and about 2p a flush. This excludes the cost of installing, servicing and reading meters, which is not being charged to affected customers during

the trials. One retired *Times* reader fears his prized back garden pool will literally have to be put out to grass — and the grass may not be green.

Mr David Gadbury, of Southern Water, who is responsible for national metering trials, estimates that a small three-by-six metre pool would cost £40 for the initial summer filling and a lawn sprinkler 80p an hour. He says customers have responded more favourably to metering than expected but he has no sympathy for swimming pool owners.

“If they want to own a swimming pool they must pay the true cost,” he says, emphasising that, during the trials, water suppliers will not raise their total revenue as a result of metering.

Whether 111.5p per cubic metre is “the

true cost” has, however, yet to be decided. One reason for the trials is to experiment with different charging systems.

Wessex Water is conducting two different trials in the Poole area. On a public housing estate, consumers pay a straight charge per cubic metre while in affluent Broadstone, charges vary widely according to the time of day, to flatten the early evening peak when garden watering coincides with children's baths.

The interim report on the trials is due in two months' time. It will reveal a series of problems that could tilt the balance further against universal metering as a successor to the water and sewerage rate, which must be phased out in the wake of property rates.

On the Isle of Wight, the metering programme, which was due to be complete

by April 1, is between six and nine months behind schedule, with consequent increased costs.

Mr Colin Skellett, chief executive of Wessex Water, says that the variable tariff units in Broadstone have run into teething troubles. Some meters have physically not worked and read-outs have, in some cases, been unreliable.

A more general conflict has arisen between internal meters, which cost more to read and install but are preferred by many customers, and cheaper external meters, which raise problems over paying for leakage.

That conflict is sharpest for blocks of flats, or multi-occupied houses, where economic efficiency could run up against the duty of Mr Ian Byatt, the director-

general of Water Services, to resist discrimination between customers.

Some water service groups, such as Yorkshire Water and Welsh Water, have said they do not want to charge domestic customers by universal metering. Either way, water suppliers seem likely to remain an exception to the normal commercial drive, shared by other utilities, to sell customers more.

One of the main motives for metering in much of the country is to cut peak demand in order to avoid even higher costs of investment to expand supplies.

Investment costs are eventually passed on to the customers, but it would be hard for suppliers to ask Mr Byatt for higher charges to recoup revenue lost if metering cut use.

Bank steps in to ease B&C fears

By Angela Mackay

THE Bank of England yesterday said British & Commonwealth's computer leasing arm, Atlantic Computers, had financial problems. City analysts believe these will cause large write-offs when B&C announces 1989 results on April 26.

The Bank's highly unusual intervention was intended to be supportive, since B&C operates money broking and banking businesses under Bank supervision.

B&C, led by Mr John Gunn, chief executive, paid £407 million for Atlantic Computers in July 1988 but the company's performance has been disappointing since. Profits are down and market share has been eroded by competition from IBM.

B&C is expected to make substantial provisions for Atlantic and possibly allow for potential losses on local authority interest rate swaps and an exceptional provision relating to loans made to its employee share scheme.

The Bank of England, however, stressed that B&C's other businesses were sound.

“We understand there are problems at Atlantic but as far as the Bank is aware the other trading companies are trading in compliance with regulatory requirements,” it said.

Mr Gunn was at B&C's City offices in King Street yesterday but did not comment.

B&C's recent history depicts a roller-coaster ride of fortune. It became a stock market favourite in 1986 and 1987 when Mr Gunn took the helm, switched from asset-rich business to financial services and bought out the Cayzer family in a deal that involved

substantial continuing payments. But its prestige never recovered from the 1987 market crash. From a peak of 564p, the shares have slid relentlessly to close at 53p before the holiday, cutting its market value to £200 million.

Shareholders have been heartened by Mr Gunn's belt-tightening measures symbolised when, as chairman, he took a 50 per cent salary cut. Late last year the company

started an aggressive asset disposal programme.

The most recent sale was that of Garton, the fund manager, to the French bank Indosuez for £130 million. But this will not help alleviate pressure on 1989 profits.

It is difficult to quantify the size of the potential write-off, but a leading broker suggested the authorities are being supportive of the group and have encouraged institutions

to rally around Mr Gunn, who recently resigned as chairman to focus on trading the company out of its problems. Sir Peter Thompson, former NFC chairman, succeeded him.

The broker suggested covenants on certain loans may be breached if B&C's share price falls further. The company is highly geared with debts of about £690 million.

Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, recently estimated net interest costs in 1989 would rise dramatically to £34 million despite proceeds from the sale of MW Marshall, the money broker, and 61 per cent of Woodchester which together fetched £290 million.

The purchase of Atlantic surprised the market. Then the company's business involved the supply and financing of IBM and DEC computers and the leasing of software, data communications networks and communications systems. It had a 70 per cent share of the British leasing market but only 5 per cent of Continental Europe.

Market share in the UK has been slashed by half, according to computer market analysts. Laing & Cruickshank predicted Atlantic's pre-tax profits in 1989 would drop from £37.1 million to £23 million, but this now seems optimistic.

Further hampered by goodwill amortization, which the management considers crippling, B&C's full-year results will probably contain few bright spots and it is possible the group will be unable to maintain dividend payments and may consider not paying a final dividend. The interim dividend was held at 4p and in 1988 the company paid 5.25p in the second half.

October 1988: John Gunn, former Exco international chief, appointed chief executive. B&C shares at 240p.

November 1988: B&C buys rest of Steel Brothers, overseas trader, for £45m, and Exco, money broker, for £672m.

March 1989: £51m paid for RMI, bond broker. Shares at 380p.

April 1989: B&C Merchant Bank set up with capital of £100m.

June 1989: B&C's founders, the Cayzer family, withdraw investment. Three-year deal sets them £427.5m. Lord Cayzer retires as chairman, after 30 years, succeeded by Gunn.

July 1989: Agreed £490m bid for Mercantile House, financial services group. Shares hit peak of 564p.

September 1989: Interim profits of £71.1m and £187m bid for Abaco, professional services company.

March 1989: Quadrex Holdings sued for failure to complete £280m buy of wholesale money broker MW Marshall, of Exco.

April 1989: Full-year profits rise to £130.9m despite £45m provision for losses on Kaines, the US commodity trader set up by Gunn in 1985. Shares at 272p.

June 1989: Gunn achieves aim of B&C owning business limited to financial services with the £359m MBO of Bricom, the transport and commercial services division.

July 1989: £407m agreed bid for Atlantic Computers, third biggest computer leasing company. Shares at 240p.

September 1989: Interim profits up 17 per cent to £82.9m.

October 1989: Purchase of Hoare Govett's private client business for about £25m.

November 1989: B&C wins £100m in damages against Quadrex Holdings. Quadrex appeals.

December 1989: High Court grants B&C interim damages of £75m. Reduced to £25m on appeal.

February 1990: MW Marshall sold to management for £174m.

April 1990: Full-year profits fall 6 per cent to £122.8m.

May 1990: Fundamental Brokers closed with loss of 111 jobs.

September 1990: Interim profits fall 45 per cent to £34.4m.

November 1990: B&C plans £400m asset sale. Shares at 86p.

December 1990: Sale of remaining 29.9 per cent of Woodchester Investments, Irish leasing company, raises £48m.

March 1991: Gunn takes £400,000 pay cut to £300,000 and sells remaining stake in Bricom for £22m and receives £130m from sale of Garton, the fund manager, to Indosuez.

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RISE AND FALL

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Thorntons' eggs roll into Paris

ADRIAN BROOKS

By Gillian Bowditch

FRENCH chocolate-lovers were able to enjoy Thorntons chocolate eggs for the first time this Easter. More than 50,000 of the 2 million Thorntons eggs sold this year were bought across the Channel.

Mr Jerome Dillard, marketing director of Thorntons' operations in France, says the French taste in chocolate is slightly different from that of the British. Customers at Thorntons' 64 shops in Paris and northern France like dark chocolate eggs and prefer to choose their own fillings.

Mr John Thornton, chairman and chief executive of Thorntons, which bought two French confectionery retailers for £8.65 million last August, says the group targeted France for its European expansion because although less chocolate is consumed there than in Britain, the market is growing rapidly. The French business had sales of £8.5 million in 1989.

Thorntons has completed most of the rationalization of its French acquisition, and has disposed of some assets, including the Candice group head office. The 48 confectionery shops will trade under the Martial name and the first new-look Martial shop will open in September. The 18 ice-cream shops will continue to trade under the Sunset name.

Although Thorntons is introducing its own lines into the French shops it will keep the traditional sales balance of 25 per cent chocolate, 25 per cent sugared almonds, 25 per cent ice-cream and 25 per cent sugared confectionery.

Once sales of UK products in France have been raised as far as possible, the Martial concept will be rolled out nationwide. Mr Thornton says eventually the group could have a French chain of a similar size to the UK business. Thorntons has 334 shops in the UK, 132 of which are franchises, and it has targeted a further 150 sites.



Chocolate Sunday: Jerome Dillard goes to work on a British egg

Greenall in talks on breweries

By Our City Staff

GREENALL Whitley, the Warrington-based brewer and hotels group, is believed to be in negotiations with Labatt, the Canadian brewer, regarding the sale of its two breweries.

Greenall, which has debts of about £170 million, recently announced the sale of the marketing rights of Vladimir vodka to Whyte & Mackay, the Glasgow-based distiller, for £33 million. The group hinted that other disposals may follow shortly.

Greenall has had links with Labatt since 1987 when it agreed to produce and distribute Labatt lager for its 1,600 own public houses and free houses in the North-east. Labatt has been looking at the British beer market, having identified it as a launching pad for sales throughout Europe.

Analysts believe the sale of Greenall's beer production side could raise more than £50 million.

Income Bonds cut outflow in National Savings to £271m

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

WITHDRAWALS from fixed-interest certificates of almost £400 million contributed to another sharp drop in National Savings of £271 million in March, helping to cut the total investments in the Department of Savings by £1.6 billion to £35.3 billion in the year to end-March.

The monthly fall would have been much worse but for a record demand for Income Bonds, which attracted £261.4 million net in the run up to independent taxation. The

Budget also boosted the bonds as the Chancellor announced a 1 per cent rise in the interest rate to 13.5 per cent to take place on May 4.

Income Bonds, launched in August 1982, usually attract about £50 million a month with net sales after withdrawals of £15 million. The previous best was in October 1982 when £209.4 million was invested.

The Investment Account, which had its interest rate boosted to 12.75 per cent from

April 3, had receipts of £174.4 million in March. This gross-paid account was also a likely beneficiary from the five million new non-taxpayers created by independent taxation.

During the year to the end of March £2.8 billion was withdrawn from fixed interest certificates reducing the total invested to £8.6 billion. A large proportion of the withdrawals were from the 28th Issue, which matured last summer and now earn just 5.01 per cent.

Dutchman in line to buy Soviet firm

Amsterdam

THE Dutch businessman Mr Joep Van den Nieuwenhuysen expects Soviet approval by the end of May to buy an engineering firm near Moscow.

Mr Van den Nieuwenhuysen, whose Begemann group doubled profits last year by buying and reorganizing struggling engineering companies, would have to put up \$5-10 million as collateral for a rouble loan to buy the Cemash company. He will hold half the equity.

Soviet officials said they would recommend the takeover. (Reuters)

Sleeping sickness grips Wall St

THE savings and loan crisis is exerting a dreadful drag on the financial markets. Combined with the evident failure of the Federal Reserve to hold its “tight” policy long enough to kill inflation, this has spread a sort of sleeping sickness throughout American money.

As Wall Street's traders and bankers moan along to what passes as work these listless days, the gloom hangs low like a sodden, humid, tropical cloud just as the monsoon is about to break.

Wall Street would love a really shocking crisis now — something to generate a bit of business and above all, a little activity to liven days that are just dreary grey spaces. The most urgent question nowadays often is: “Do you want a sausage or a pepperoni pizza?”

In the early stages of the S&L crisis, it was possible to believe that the “nationalization” of the crisis would lift the burden of the catastrophe off the financial markets. But now we can see that the calamity cannot be contained by the assumption of the burden by the taxpayers of America.

1. The comptroller-general of the currency and other banking officials in Washington are terrified the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation could be driven into bankruptcy by the spread of

US NOTEBOOK

property and LBO write-offs into the commercial banks. Therefore, commercial banks are being driven into major write-offs of bad loans and into losses. The object is to kill lending to limit, at a pre-bankruptcy stage, the actual and potential losses that will be borne by the FDIC. Thus, the S&L collapse is killing commercial bank lending.

2. The persistent and urgent need for cash by the Resolution Trust Corporation for S&Ls is leading to big issues of T-bills by the Treasury and to the failed Refco 40-year debt auctions, which are in turn souring the whole bond market. This is keeping short-term commercial interest rates higher than would otherwise be the case.

3. Property markets and junk bonds are being depressed by knowledge of the enormous overhang of junk bonds and junk property in the RTC portfolio. This in turn is undermining the balance sheets of the commercial banks, the insurance companies and pension funds.

4. A depressing influence is the knowledge that the federal budget deficit has sunk back into a critical condition — something Mr Charles Bowsher, head of the General Accounting Office, has been

hammering in public, to the embarrassment of the White House.

5. There are more insistent demands for tax increases — both from Mr Dan Rostenkowski, Democratic Congressman for Illinois, and now from Mr Bowsher. If they do not happen at the federal level, they will happen at state and local level as the federal government withdraws more and more funding of state and local projects to offload its own problems. State and local finances are falling ever deeper into deficit.

The Federal Reserve knows how rickety US banks are. So does the stock market which has hit their shares hard. The debt markets have also hit banks' bonds. And the ratings agencies have been downgrading all sort of bank debt.

But if this represents any sort of temptation to the central bank to ease, the bond market is saying “don't try it.” As Japanese and German bond markets still seem to want to fall further, there is a real possibility that the long bond yield, now at just over 8½ per cent, could reach 9 per cent before the issue is settled by a big drop in what is perceived as a vulnerable stock market.

Maxwell Newton
New York

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.50	2.10
Canada	2.50	2.10
Denmark	2.50	2.10
France	2.50	2.10
Germany	2.50	2.10
Italy	2.50	2.10
Japan	2.50	2.10
Spain	2.50	2.10
Sweden	2.50	2.10
Switzerland	2.50	2.10
USA	2.50	2.10
Yugoslavia	2.50	2.10

Notes for small denomination bank notes: 1. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. 2. Small Print Rates: 12.14 (March)

Advertising agencies are waiting to hear who has won the account for the riskiest privatization

Meter is running for the big power sell

FOR some of the boys in the proverbial bow-ties and blue-rimmed spectacles, now is an anxious time. At stake is the estimated £20 million of work the advertising industry can hope for from the £10 billion-plus privatization of the power industry.

The trick is to come up with another winning formula, after "Tell Sid" sold British Gas and "Be an HsOwner" the water industry.

The Department of Energy has winnowed the list down to four agencies: the inevitable Saatchi, J Walter Thompson, which is owned by Mr Martin Sorrell's WPP Group, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, part of WCRS Group, and the only private agency to get through, Collett Dickinson Pearce.

Advisers to the float joke of the wine-making efforts already assigned to the bin — "Plug Into Electricity, 'It's Shocking' and 'Socket to Me'" are just three of the worst.

The final "beauty contest" will be around April 27, and the winner will know the good news early next month. The nation will have to wait until September, two months before the first floatation in the privatization programme, before the first advertisements run.

The appointment of an advertising agency is another step along the path towards what is the most complex, the least understood and possibly the most risky of the Government's share issues.

Giant utilities such as British Telecom and British Gas could lumber largely unchanged into public ownership, provided the necessary regulatory restraints to prevent abuse of their various monopoly positions had been put in place.

The 10 water authorities already covered clearly defined areas of the country which they retained, and they could be marketed to the City simply as yield stocks.

But the Government's task with power is to dismantle a complex industry that even privatization's supporters accept is not best structured to allow the importation of competition. It has to do this against a backdrop of mounting hostility from the Labour Party, which is still likely to have a commanding lead in the opinion polls when the float starts, adding to the perception of political risk among investors.

The industry has to be put back together again in a shape that allows free market principles to rein the monopolistic impulses of the big players. In particular, it must encourage sufficient generation of



Stephen Littlechild: privatized power's watchdog

electricity by private concerns to break the stranglehold of the big generators.

Decisions still need to be made over the power float. At its simplest, the aim is to have 12 distribution companies which cover England and Wales and supply the power direct to the consumer. There will be two big generators who will provide the power. The link between them will be the National Grid.

Up to Vesting Day on March 31 the generating side was under the control of the Central Electricity Generating Board, while the local distribution boards were free-standing. They were also the industry's closest link to the ultimate consumer as the body to whom the bills were payable, and its shop window through their retail arms with outlets in most high streets.

Marketing men see this separate corporate identity for the distributors, or discos, as an advantage in selling the issues. It is an advantage that should not be over-stressed; few people's perception of their local electricity showroom is favourable, as they have largely lagged behind the 1980s retail revolution.

The two great unanswered questions are the eventual capital structure of the two generators and the discos and how much of them will actually be sold off. The capital

structure — effectively, how much debt the Government leaves the companies with once they are floated — is likely to be announced within the next month. The decision whether to float all the companies or just a 51 per cent stake in them can easily be left until September at the earliest.

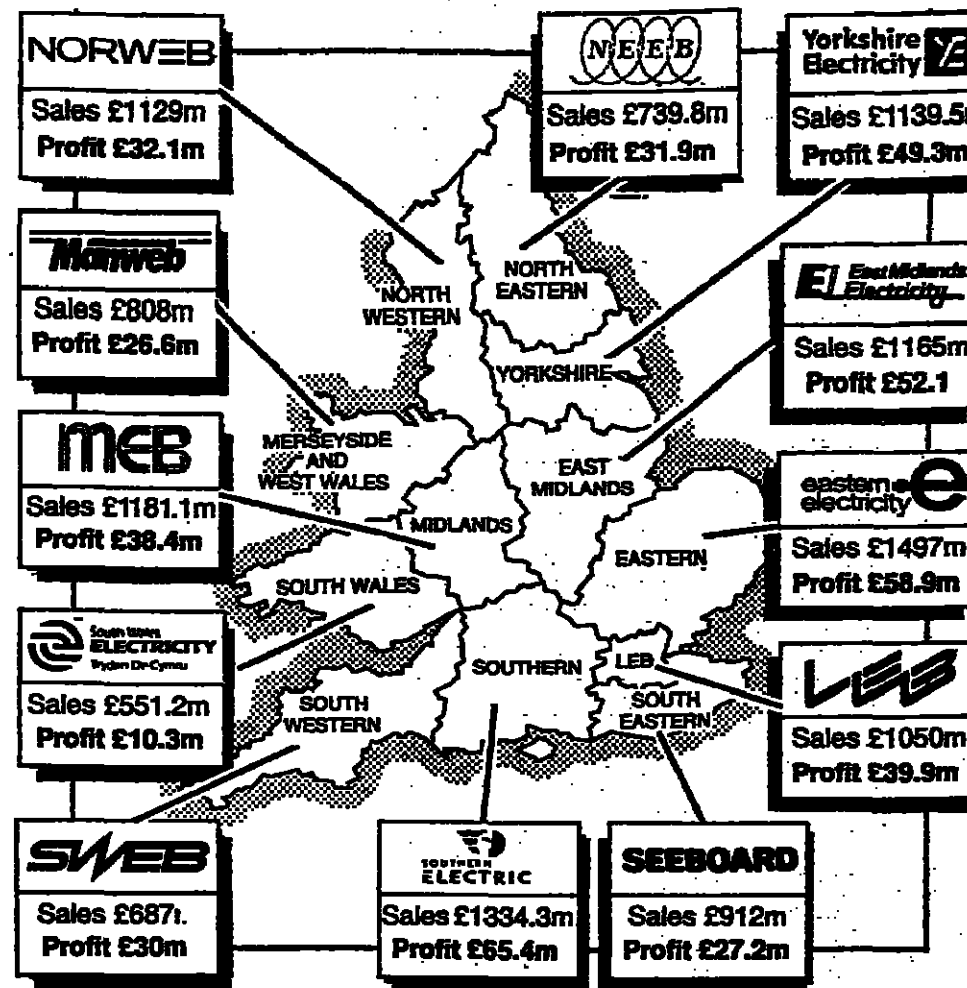
The Government will almost certainly sell all 12 discos outright. Even if the market is weak, the administrative disadvantages of being left

● All 12 discos will almost certainly be sold outright ●

with minority stakes in 12 smaller companies will probably outweigh any financial gains that might be won from holding half of each until stock market conditions improve.

But there is an argument for retaining part of the generators, if only because of their size. Earlier privatizations have taken place in chunks, and the Government retains the option of limiting the damage, if the market takes a turn for the worse, without too much loss of face.

This would be unpopular in the City. There would be concern about any future government interference, it would seem to make the businesses



to take back under state control should the present administration lose office, and it would seem contrary to the ethos of increasing competition in a free-standing power industry.

The two generators, set to come to the market next spring, and probably worth £3.5 billion between them, are:

● National Power, the larger, whose almost 30 gigawatts of generating capacity represents slightly more than half the country's total. Mr John Baker, a former CEGB man, is chief executive, but the chairman's seat is vacant after the abrupt resignation of Lord Marshall in December.

● PowerGen, with almost 19 gigawatts, where Mr Robert Malpas, formerly managing director of BP, takes the chair, with Mr Ed Wallis, also ex-CEGB, as chief executive.

It was the hiring-off of the nuclear stations into a third company, Nuclear Electric, which will not be sold to the public, that prompted the departure of Lord Marshall, a proponent of nuclear power.

That decision was only one of a number aimed at making the float more palatable to investors. The latest was permission for the generators to cut by almost half a clean-up programme prompted by the European Community to reduce acid rain.

The 12 discos, worth perhaps £5.5 billion, come to the market in November. With one exception, they divide neatly into three categories and are likely to be perceived that way by the City. Four are heavily on the domestic user, four on industry and three have a mixed customer base. This division was largely recognized by the Government last month when it announced the so-called X factors, the amount by which the charges

● Mild weather particularly hits discos with domestic bias ●

for distribution can rise annually by more than the retail price index. Although averaging 1.1 per cent, the spread was wide, with companies regarded as needing heavy investment spending at the top of the range.

The increases cannot be passed on to the consumer and must effectively be absorbed by the generators.

The four biased towards the domestic consumer are:

● Eastern Electricity — largest in area and with the most customers. Its high-profile chairman, Mr James Smith, is something of a spokesman for the discos. Low X factor,

because significant economies of scale are possible.

● Southern Electric, the second largest, with good potential for demographic growth and a large number of contracts with private generators, experience which is likely to be useful after the float.

● South Eastern Electricity Board, or Seeboard, with the highest proportion of domestic customers. Mild weather particularly hits discos with domestic bias, and last summer was bad news for Seeboard. But it has the Channel Tunnel, with vast power needs, in its area.

● South West Electricity, with high population growth and a good record for attracting industry.

The industrialized boards are less affected by weather but larger customers may go it alone and generate their own power. They are:

● Manweb, covering Merseyside and North Wales, bedevilled with an urban distribution network needing extensive upgrading and a widely spaced rural customer base. Its social problems are perhaps reflected in the fact that it has had to develop its own tamper-proof electricity meters, which it now markets to the other area boards.

● South Wales, similar in profile to Manweb and consequently also graced with the highest X factor. The smallest

in turnover terms and the most industrially biased.

● Northern Electric, half of whose load goes to industrial consumers. Perhaps particularly prone to losing demand to own-generation schemes.

● Yorkshire Electricity, with a good record for attracting heavy industry and in an area rich in natural resources such as coal, oil and gas which is likely to tempt it to generate at least part of its supply itself.

The three boards whose customer base is fairly evenly balanced are:

● Norweb, with a strong retailing arm and the first board to sign an agreement to take power from an independent generator, Lakeland Power, which will provide 7 per cent of its requirements.

● Midlands Electricity, which already operates two small combined heat and power stations in its area, a probable pointer to the future.

● East Midlands Electricity, one of the biggest, and known to be keen to encourage private generation of power.

The twelfth disco, and the odd one out, is the London Electricity Board, covering the smallest area, with a very high commercial bias and with almost all of its mains already underground. Penalized with an X factor of nil.

The National Grid Company, the final element in the equation, will be jointly owned by all the discos.

The main new competitive element in the industry's restructuring is the Pooling and Settlement Agreement, a document which governs the way electricity is traded within the system between generators and discos. It effectively sets up a new market in power; broadly, all generators will have to publish the quantity and price of the power available each day, while the NGC will allow the discos to satisfy their needs at the best price.

The restructuring applies entirely to the CEGB and so excludes Scotland, which has its own generating structure. The two Scottish boards, ScottishPower and Hydro-Electric, have been pushed to the back of the privatization queue and will be floated, for more than £1 billion, in June. This has led to some enmity between the Department of Energy and the Scottish Office.

Patrolling the new structure is Professor Stephen Littlechild, the first director-general of Electricity Supply. He heads the Office of Electricity Regulation and his job is largely to promote competition and ensure the consumer does not get a raw deal.

Martin Walker

Property lending by banks slows

By Matthew Bond

BANK lending to property companies has risen to £34 billion, according to the estate agent Hillier Parker.

But the rate at which lending is increasing is slowing down.

Compared with a high point of 61 per cent in the second quarter of last year, the year-on-year increase has now fallen to 44 per cent, which is the lowest increase for nearly three years.

In spite of the sharp increase in lending to property companies by foreign banks, British banks still have a 57 per cent share of the total amount loaned.

Japanese and American banks have shares of 10.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively.

However, with the traditional first owners of property developments — the pension funds and insurance companies — now boycotting property, there will be a growing number of property companies seeking to replace short-term construction loans from banks with medium-term bank finance.

Such refinancing could obscure the banks' increasingly cautious attitude to lending to property companies.

Mr Bill Rispin of Hillier Parker Financial Services says: "Net institutional investment into property is expected to remain at a low level until the current movement in yields is perceived by the market to have ceased."

"Given the institutional market, some refinancing will be necessary, which will to some extent mask the underlying trend of bank lending."

Last week a report from a credit-rating agency gave warning that British clearing banks could lose £750 million on bad property loans over the next two years, while foreign banks, which came to the lending market later, could lose even more.

But total lending is certain to grow as more developments work their way through the pipeline.

Last week a report from Jones Lang Wootton showed that at the end of last year property development in London was at its highest level since 1983.

Despite the prolonged period of economic adversity, it had increased by 19 per cent in six months to 17.5 million sq ft.



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PW plans to expand services in Europe

By Graham Searjeant

PRICE Waterhouse, the international accountancy partnership, is planning a drive to expand its corporate finance and privatization advice business throughout Europe in competition with banks.

Mr Howard Hyman, who built up PW's privatization department, and has been appointed to a new post as partner in charge of corporate finance across Europe, said: "We hope to build corporate finance into a fourth leg of Price Waterhouse to stand alongside management consultancy, audit and tax and make a material contribution to the firm's profits."

PW has a substantial corporate finance business in Britain, especially from management buyouts, including the Marshalls money broking business, and inter-company deals. The division will also include corporate finance activities in Spain and the London-based privatization department.

"My aim is to build out from the base of our two established corporate finance practices to other key territories, notably France, Germany, Italy and Holland," Mr Hyman said.

The privatization advice department is also expanding in Eastern Europe.

Mr Hyman stressed that corporate finance advice, like privatization work, would be quite separate from any management consultancy involved or from acting as reporting accountants.

He said PW wanted corporate finance executives in all main centres and would have an advantage over merchant bank rivals because it already had established partnerships in continental countries.

It will target cross-border deals and financing. PW will also pitch for advice business on stock market deals but will not act as an underwriter or lender. Mr Hyman said this could now be an advantage as it avoided conflicts of interest over the terms of acquisitions or flotations.

GILT-EDGED

Forecasting errors can prove to be good news

The Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, in his Durham speech, identified policy mistakes and forecasting errors. These were presumably not unconnected.

The forecasting errors to date have been negative for the bond markets. Since errors are still likely, are we at the point when they become positive for the market?

Arguably the greatest forecasting error was the underestimation of the demand for credit, first from households and then companies.

Past relationships with interest rates and incomes provided no accurate guide. Indeed, for some years over the past decade the interest rate elasticity of demand for credit was positive, creating an increased demand for credit when interest rates went up.

The blame for this lies with the deregulation of financial services, a sector which is much larger in Britain than in other industrialized nations.

This increased the supply of credit at every level of interest rates. Given the uncertainties that can be created by such a supply shift, it is debatable whether anyone could have foreseen such a dramatic result.

However, there is evidence that the supply of credit is falling.

We are at the stage of the economic cycle where default risk is rising and consequently suppliers of credit are becoming more risk-averse.

But there is a potentially more important effect. Independently of any incentives introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr John Major, in the Budget, there are indications that people are now prepared to save more.

We would attribute this as much to the decline in

house prices as to the continuation of high real interest rates. For many years people have regarded their houses (and their pensions) as "savings" and have not been inclined to allocate discretionary "top-ups."

If the setback in house prices, which looks increasingly likely to extend into 1991, has affected expectations, a different behaviour pattern could emerge.

The dramatic fall in consumer confidence since the summer of 1988 has not been accompanied by rising unemployment or falling real incomes as in the past.

The "shock" to households has been delivered by falling house prices and rising interest rates.

It has yet to be compounded by rising unemployment and reduced real incomes. But when it does, the impact on spending should be significant.

Likewise, companies are reacting to the financial squeeze by increasing asset disposals and cutting investment plans.

A flatter spending profile into 1991, with a consequently greater improvement in the trade deficit than is the consensus expectation at present, could significantly ease the pressure on short-term interest rates.

A comparison with 1977 is not totally unwarranted. Coincidentally, base rates began that year at 15 per cent but collapsed to 5 per cent as it became clear the public sector borrowing requirement had been dramatically overestimated.

This time it could be the private sector deficit which is being overestimated. We are not, however, forecasting the repeat of such a large interest rate fall. Other factors are significantly different, requiring a more cautious policy stance. History simply serves to remind

the potential consequences of "positive" forecasting errors.

The gilt market has been reluctant to accept this scenario and with good reason.

Inflation remains a concern. The much longer time-lags in this cycle between the peak in economic activity and an easing of pressures on wage rates have kept inflation indicators at the top of the list of market sensitivities.

There are very few who believe the forecasting errors on inflation will now prove to be positive. Yet, despite the inflation shocks of recent years, the degree of certainty about the British inflation outlook is stunning.

Using the consensus forecasts for the major economies provided by Consensus Economics Inc, we can analyse expectations.

The standardized variance of inflation forecasts for Britain in 1990 is lower than both Germany and Japan and on a par with the United States, which has experienced a very stable inflation profile.

By contrast, the degree of uncertainty about Britain's growth prospects this year is the highest of the Group of Seven economies and, perhaps most surprising of all, is even higher than next year's, where forecasters universally expect a modest recovery.

Consequently, we believe the market's sensitivity to the evidence of the real economy is very great at present and probably greater than its sensitivity to the inflation indicator. When evidence that the private sector deficit is reducing begins to emerge, we would expect a more bullish profile for short-term interest rates.

Michael Hughes
BZW Economics & Strategy

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report April 16 1990

Court of Appeal

Test for giving life prisoner parole

Regina v Parole Board, Ex parte Bradley
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment April 4]

The test to be applied by the Parole Board when deciding whether to recommend for parole a prisoner serving a discretionary life sentence was not the same as that applying to the prisoner, even when he had completed his tariff; the test was to be applied to the requirements of deterrence and rehabilitation.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when refusing to grant judicial review of the board's refusal to recommend the applicant, William Bradley, to the Home Secretary for release on licence and their refusal to disclose their reasons. Their Lordships said that the board's decision was not subject to judicial review.

The Parole Board, set up under the Criminal Justice Act 1967, advised the Home Secretary on the release on licence of those serving life sentences; and the Home Secretary would not release a prisoner on licence unless recommended to by the board.

The applicant, born in February 1958, was in February 1975 convicted of the rape of a girl aged 15 and sentenced to three months' detention. In April 1976 he committed offences of indecent assault and assault occasioning actual bodily harm on a girl aged 14 and attempted murder of a girl aged 17 in May of that year.

For the latter he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was recorded by police as saying he wanted to see that it was like to kill somebody. After the first review for parole the board in June 1986 decided not to recommend the applicant. In August and November 1986 he was seen by a consultant forensic psychiatrist who reported to the board

"In my opinion there is no evidence to suggest that he would present a danger if he were released."

The board again refused to recommend him the following year and in reply to his request for the reasons for the decision he was told by the Home Secretary that it was likely that the board was not satisfied, taking account of the nature of his offences as well as his progress in prison, that any risk to the public might result from his release was at an acceptable level.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the applicant; Mr David Pannick for the board.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, giving the judgment of the court, said that review for parole was set to begin three years before the time when the prisoner would have served the tariff, the period of time which was set by the Home Secretary by the Lord Chief Justice and the trial judge as being that which should be served to satisfy the requirements of deterrence and rehabilitation.

Once the applicant had satisfied the tariff his continued detention was not justified on the ground of risk to the public. The issue of what should be the test of dangerousness applied to discretionary life prisoners in the post-tariff period and what degree of risk justified continued detention did not appear to have arisen before.

Mr Fitzgerald contended for a test of "likelihood" that the prisoner would probably commit further serious offences (injury to life or limb or serious sexual assault). That was the test which the board applied to the applicant's case. The test stated to be that in fact applied by the board was "the risk to the public in relation to the prisoner's dangerousness" to the community and whether any such risk was acceptable. In the present case dangerousness related to the risk of him causing death or serious injury or sexual assault if released.

Mr Fitzgerald said the test should be no lower than that applied when the discretionary life sentence was imposed. No less stringent test ought to be applied at the later stage of the board's decision whether the requirements of punishment having been satisfied, continued imprisonment was justified.

His Lordship said that it was one thing to say that only the likelihood (in the sense of probability) of further serious offending justified the imposition of a life sentence. It was quite another thing to say, as Mr Fitzgerald had, that justice demanded that the identical test be applied at the later stage of Parole Board assessment.

The sentencing court recognized that a life sentence might well cause the accused to serve longer, and sometimes substantially longer, than his just deserts.

It must not expose him to that peril unless there was compelling justification. That was the perception of grave future risk amounting to an actual likelihood of dangerousness.

Of course the court's perception of that future risk was inevitably imperfect, projecting its assessment many years forward and without the benefit of a constant process of monitoring and reporting as enjoyed by the Parole Board. It was not, therefore, a test of likelihood of dangerousness. It was a test of likelihood of dangerousness. It was a test of likelihood of dangerousness. It was a test of likelihood of dangerousness.

even although the risk as ultimately perceived was substantially less than the actual probability of his seriously offending upon release.

The board had to carry out a balancing exercise between the legitimate conflicting interests of both prisoner and public. They must clearly recognize the price which the prisoner personally was paying in order to give proper effect to the interests of public safety.

They should recognize too that it was progressively higher price. The longer the prisoner served beyond the tariff period the clearer should be the board's perception of public risk to justify the continued deprivation of liberty.

As to the decision being irrational the court rejected the submission that it must be so *prima facie* since it included rejection of all the advice from those who had seen and been in touch with the applicant.

In the absence of any clear explanation of motivation, the officers clearly indicated a desire to the public. It did not follow that because the applicant had served a period in prison to satisfy the tariff that he presented less of a danger.

It had been argued that the board had attached significance to the applicant's remark to the police that he wanted to see what it was like to kill someone. The board had not, however, taken account of the fact that the applicant was a man of 32 years of age, who was not a violent man, and whose reaction was to matter that was troubling him if he considered he might have some relevant contribution to make but that his Lordship was not persuaded that the instant circumstances showed any procedural unfairness.

Cloverbay Ltd v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA
Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice McCowan
[Judgment March 29]

Where the court was invited to carry out the balancing exercise under section 236(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, it was unsatisfactory to rely on the subjective state of mind of the liquidator or administrator as to whether there was an intention to sue.

The Court of Appeal so held (Lord Justice McCowan dissenting) in dismissing the appeal by the joint administrators of Cloverbay Ltd (Mr M. C. Withall and Mr R. St. J. Butler) from a decision of Mr Justice Harman on December 21, 1989 setting aside an order made by the registrar under section 236(2) of the 1986 Act that Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (BCCI) by two named persons (Mr H. Rizbi and Mr M. Malik) attend to be examined on oath in connection with the affairs of Cloverbay Ltd.

Section 236 provides: "(2) The court may, on the application of the office holder, summon to appear before it—(a) any officer of the company, (b) any person known or suspected to have in his possession any property of the company or supposed to be indebted to the company, or (c) any person whom the court thinks capable of giving information concerning the promotion, formation, business, dealings, affairs or property of the company."

Mr Gabriel Moss, QC, for the joint administrators; Mr John Brishby for BCCI.

Following the discovery of apparent irregularities, proceedings were commenced in the Commercial Court in July 1987 and orders were obtained requiring the production of certain documents which included cheques drawn by Cloverbay in favour of persons who, on investigation, claimed to have no knowledge of Cloverbay.

Joint administrators were appointed and they obtained an *ex parte* order under section 236 requiring BCCI to produce all books, records and memoranda relating to dealings with Cloverbay's accounts with BCCI.

The documents disclosed were put before a counsel specializing in banking matters who expressed the preliminary view that, on the face of it, there appeared to be a course of bad conduct on the part of BCCI but that the administrators would need to investigate further in order to establish whether BCCI had any explanation for what had occurred.

Following that advice the joint administrators applied and obtained an order from a registrar of the Companies Court for the examination under section 236(2) of Mr Rizbi and Mr Malik, managers at the branch of BCCI where Cloverbay's accounts were held.

Although the words of section 236(2) conferred a general discretion on the court over the years the courts had given certain guidance as to the proper basis for the exercise of the discretion.

Most of the relevant authorities were reviewed by Mr Justice Slade in *Re Castle View Homes Ltd* [1979] 1 WLR 1075.

The exercise of the discretion involved the balancing of the requirements, on the one hand, of the liquidator or administrator to obtain information against, on the other, the possible oppression to the person sought to be examined.

Mr Justice Slade had stated (at p1089-90) a more detailed rule for carrying out that balancing exercise where there was a real possibility that the person seeking an order for examination would start an action against the person sought to be examined.

It appeared that since that decision a practice had grown up of putting in evidence stating whether or not the applicant had reached a firm decision whether or not to sue. In practice it appeared that the grant or refusal of an order under section 236 had come largely to depend upon that point.

Experience had shown that that test was unsatisfactory for it depended upon the subjective state of mind of the liquidator or administrator in each case. There must be a temptation to seek to get as much information as possible before taking a decision whether or not to sue.

The more information there was as to the facts and possible defences to a claim the better informed would be any decision and the greater likelihood of such a decision being correct.

There was nothing improper in a liquidator or administrator seeking to obtain as much information as possible before committing himself to proceedings.

A test based on the subjective state of mind of the liquidator or administrator inevitably led to undesirable disputes of fact as to what was his state of mind. The test therefore propounded in *Re Castle View Homes* had not proved to be satisfactory and should not in future be applied.

There was no other simple test which could be substituted. The words of the statute did not fetter the court's discretion in any way.

It was clear that in exercising the discretion the court had to balance the requirements of the liquidator against any possible oppression to the person to be examined.

Such balancing depended on the relationship between the importance to the liquidator of obtaining the information on the one hand and the degree of oppression on the other.

If the information required was fundamental to any assessment of whether or not there was a cause of action and the degree of oppression was small (for example, in the case of ordering premature discovery of documents) the balance would manifestly come down in favour of making the order.

Circumstances might vary infinitely. Few cases would be clear: it would be for the judge in each case to reach his own conclusion.

The purpose of section 236 was not to put the company in a better position than it would have enjoyed if liquidation or administration had not supervened. The purpose was to enable the liquidator or administrator to get sufficient information to reconstitute the state of knowledge that the company should possess.

Court must make clear reasons for young offender's sentence

Regina v Clarke (Gary)
When young offenders were being dealt with by the imposition of a custodial sentence it was imperative that the sentencing court should carefully follow the wording of section 14(4)(a) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as amended by section 123 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, in order to make it clear to the offender the view that the matter was so serious that if the offender had been over 21 he would have qualified for a custodial sentence, and equally clear under what paragraph or paragraphs the offender had qualified for a custodial sentence.

That all had to be made clear to the world at large and to the offender in particular by virtue of section 2(4) of the 1982 Act, as substituted by section 123(5) of the 1988 Act.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Wright) so stated on April 11 when allowing an appeal by Gary Clarke and reducing to a total of 12 months the total sentence of 18 months detention in a young offender institution imposed on November 2, 1989 in the Liverpool Crown Court by Judge Hamilton, following the appellant's plea of guilty to two offences of burglary.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said that it was a matter of great concern to the court that in the period of only a few weeks, to the certain knowledge of two of their Lordships, no fewer than five cases of failure to comply with the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the 1982 Act, as amended, had engaged the court's attention. Those failures had varied from a total disregard to the partial disregard of the provisions of the Act.

If the statutory requirements were carefully followed the task of the Court of Appeal would be made a great deal easier. In the circumstances their Lordships took the view that a sentence of 18 months on the second indictment was longer than justice required and it would be reduced to 12 months.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; Treasury Solicitor.

Investigators must observe code

Regina v Twitales
Regina v Brown
Before Lord Justice Stocker, Mr Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Hidden
[Reasons April 11]

Commercial investigators inquiring into alleged irregularities which might have disclosed criminal offences in a betting shop, were obliged to comply with Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PCEA) (Code of Practice).

The Court of Appeal so held when giving reasons for allowing on February 5 appeals by Jacqueline Anne Twitales and Derek Philip Brown against their convictions on March 2, 1989 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Lockhart and a jury) of attempted theft, on which they were each sentenced

to 18 months imprisonment, of which nine months was suspended.

Section 67 of the 1984 Act provides: "(9) Persons other than police officers who are charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders shall have regard to any relevant provision of such a code."

Mr Ian Copeman, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for Twitales; Mr Christopher Bann, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Brown; Mr Charles Salmon for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER said that it was submitted that the judge had erred in permitting the Crown to adduce evidence of oral and written admissions made by Twitales, and implicating Brown, during interviews conducted at her employers' offices. The investigators, after, to their knowledge, she had been arrested, interviewed by the police without making any admissions, and placed on bail pending their further inquiries.

On a voir dire the question was raised whether the provisions of the 1984 Act applied to the interview by the investigators. There were a number of potential breaches of the Code of Practice if it did apply.

The judge was referred to sections 76 and 78, but not to section 67(9). Therefore he did not consider whether by virtue of that section the relevant code applied, nor did it seem to their Lordships that he could properly apply the fairness test under section 78 in the absence of any consideration of section 67(9).

Section 67(9) applied the relevant code to commercial investigators if, but only if, and in so far as the investigators were charged with the duty of investigating offences.

No formal inquiry was made with regard to that, although the investigators seemed to have as if they were so charged once the scope of their inquiries reached the point of taking the statement which could be used in a prosecution.

In failing to consider section 67(9) the judge misdirected himself, and the verdicts were unsafe and unsatisfactory and had to be quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, London North.

There was no suggestion that what they were saying applied only to mandatory life sentences and the reasoning of the judgment applied equally to those and discretionary life sentences.

The order for discovery of reports including psychiatric reports and the reasons of the board for refusing recommendation was refused.

There was no dispute of fact. Either the recommendation to have refused to recommend parole was perverse on its face for the reasons advanced by Mr Fitzgerald or it was not; either the test applied by the board was a further prosecution or it was not.

The discovery if that was in effect the very relief sought in the substantive application and which could not be granted because of the decision in *Payne's* case.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; Treasury Solicitor.

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Regina v Forest of Dean Justices, Ex parte Farley
Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Garland
[Judgment April 11]

It would be oppressive and unfair to require a defendant to be prosecuted for driving with excess alcohol so that the prosecution could use the conviction on that charge to found a further prosecution for causing death by reckless driving in which the only recklessness alleged would be the fact of having driven after drinking.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held on an application for judicial review in granting orders restraining the Forest of Dean Justices from proceeding against John Patrick Farley on a charge of driving without a licence contrary to section 61(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 of the Transport Act 1981, until after his trial for causing death by reckless driving contrary to section 1 of the 1972 Act, as substituted by section 50 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Miss Tacey Cronin for the applicant; Mr T. Alan Jenkins for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said the applicant had been drinking with friends on November 5, 1988, and given two young girls a lift in his vehicle. The vehicle had turned over at the bottom of a hill and one of the girls was killed.

The applicant had left the scene and later telephoned the police. He was not breathalysed until the following morning, when his blood alcohol level was just below the statutory limit.

The prosecution proposed to call evidence before the justices to show by back calculation that the applicant's blood alcohol would have been above the limit when the accident occurred. The applicant's defence would be that he had consumed alcohol after the accident.

Although the prosecution were able to adduce some evidence that he had been drinking before the accident, that evidence was insufficient to found a forward calculation that the proportion of alcohol in his body at the relevant time would have exceeded the limit.

The prosecution wished to proceed with the excess alcohol summary offence in order to establish that the applicant was driving at the time with excess alcohol. If they succeeded, they would then proceed with the charge of causing death by reckless driving, the recklessness being established by the excess alcohol.

The conviction could have been put in evidence in the reckless driving trial by virtue of section 74(3) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. It would have been evidence of the facts on which it was based unless the applicant proved to the contrary.

The prosecution's reason for proceeding in that way was that in the magistrates court the burden of proving the substance of the offence lay on the defendant so as to undermine the back calculation lay on the accused by virtue of section 10(2) of the 1972 Act, as substituted.

It was argued for the applicant that it was not an exception to the general rule that the burden of proof always lay on the prosecution in the absence of express statutory provision.

On the facts, it was in substance a case of double jeopardy.

The respondents contended that there was no defined principle of law preventing prosecution for a summary offence followed by proof of the conviction as an element in an indictable offence. Any potential injustice could be remedied by the trial judge at the crown court using his powers under section 78 of the 1984 Act.

Lord Justice Bingham had observed in *Ex parte Liverpool City Justices, Ex parte Ellison* (The Times December 30, 1988) that the court had a duty to intervene if it had cause to suspect that a prosecutor might be manipulating or using the procedures of the court in order to oppress or unfairly prejudice a defendant.

The situation where a defendant faced trial on a lesser charge after being acquitted of a greater charge on the same facts had been considered by the House of Lords in *Connolly v Director of Public Prosecutions* [1964] AC 1254.

The converse situation had been considered by Judge Faulks in *R v Moxam-Tritsch* (1988) CLR 46. The judge had held, applying the principles in *Connolly*, that it would be an abuse to allow a private prosecution to proceed for causing death by reckless driving when the defendant had already pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention and driving with excess alcohol.

In *R v Eltringham* (1981) 1 Best & Smith 688 Lord Cockburn had referred to "the well-established principle of our criminal law that a series of charges shall but be preferred and whether a party accused of a minor offence acquitted or convicted, he shall not be charged again on the same facts in a more aggravated form."

In his Lordship's view, on the facts of the instant case, it would be an abuse of the process of the court to proceed in the manner proposed by the prosecution. An indictment for reckless driving following a summary conviction for excess alcohol could not be maintained within Lord Cockburn's dictum in *Eltringham*.

The prosecution should choose either to proceed with the charge of reckless driving and consider bringing the lesser charge if the defendant was acquitted, or to proceed with the excess alcohol charge alone.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said it would be unfair for the applicant to have to face the serious charge of causing death by reckless driving in circumstances where the burden of proof on the central issue of reckless driving would in effect be placed on him.

His Lordship also attached importance to the fact that the course which the prosecution sought to adopt was contrary to the general, perhaps almost invariable, rule that where a person was tried on a lesser offence he was not to be tried again on the same facts for a more serious offence.

There would be few occasions where it would be appropriate for the court to intervene. But in the present case there was such a close link between the issues in the summary proceedings and issues which were likely to be crucial in the proceedings for causing death by reckless driving that the courts should act.

Solicitors: C. H. Fowler, Gloucester; CPS, Gloucester.

Human Rights Law Report

Right to impart ideas not infringed by ban on cable retransmission

Groppera Radio AG and Others v Switzerland
(Case No 14/1988/58/214)
Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. C. Bonello, Th. Vitzthum, D. Benschneider, R. Robert, F. Golcuklu, F. Matscher, J. F. Pinheiro Faria, L. E. Pettit, R. Walsh, Sir Vincent Evans, R. Macdonald, C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, N. Valencic, K. Martens, E. Palm and Mr I. Foughele
Registrar M.-A. Eissen
[Judgment March 28]

The applicants' right to impart information and ideas regard to the transmission of radio programmes which did not comply with requirements of international agreements on radio and telecommunications was permissible under paragraph 1 of article 10 of the Convention, and satisfied the requirements of paragraph 2 of that article.

Article 10 provides: "1 Every one has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

adities as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

From October 1983 onwards Groppera Radio AG, a limited company incorporated under Swiss law, used powerful transmitters to broadcast radio programmes to listeners in Switzerland. The programmes were received by the owners of private radio sets, and to begin with by cable-network companies, which retransmitted them.

On January 1, 1984, however, an Ordinance adopted by the Federal Council in August 1983 came into force, prohibiting Swiss cable companies which had a community-antenna licence from rebroadcasting programmes from transmitters which did not satisfy the requirements of the international agreements on radio and telecommunications. Most of the companies complied.

The application was made to the European Commission of Human Rights on February 9, 1984 by Groppera Radio and three Swiss citizens, Mr I. Marguand, the company's statutory representative and sole shareholder, and Mr H.-E. Froehlich and Mr M. Caluzzi, two journalists employed by the company.

The application was declared admissible on March 1, 1988. Having attempted to achieve a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on October 13, 1988 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a breach of article 10 (by seven votes to six) but not of article 13 (unanimously).

The case was referred to the European Court of Human Rights held: 1. Government's preliminary objections.

The Swiss Government submitted that the applicants were not victims within the meaning of article 25(1) of the Convention.

The Court pointed out first that by "victim" the provision meant the person directly affected by the act or omission in issue, a violation being conceivable even in the absence of any detriment.

It found that the applicants had been directly affected by the 1983 Ordinance and the decisions of the PTT, even if those had not formally been directed at the applicants, who had continued to broadcast over the air freely.

It also held that there was no ground for distinguishing between the different applicants, as all had a direct interest in the continued transmission of the programmes by cable.

Last, it attached no importance to the fact that Messrs Marguand, Froehlich and Caluzzi were not subscribers to the cable network, as they complained of interference with their freedom to impart information and ideas regardless of frontiers.

In short, the applicants could claim to be victims of an alleged violation.

II Alleged violation of article 10 A Whether there was an interference

The Court did not consider it necessary to give a precise definition of what was meant by "information" and "ideas". Broadcasting was mentioned in the Convention precisely in relation to freedom of expression.

Like the Commission, the Court considered that both broadcasting of programmes over the air and cable retransmission of such programmes were covered by the right enshrined in the first two sentences of article 10(1), without there being any need to make distinctions according to the content of the programmes.

The disputed administrative decisions certainly interfered with the cable retransmission of Groppera Radio AG's programmes and prevented the subscribers in the Maur area from receiving them by that means, there therefore amounted to interference by public authority with the exercise of the aforesaid freedom.

B Whether the interference was justified

The Swiss Government

submitted, in the alternative, that the interference was in keeping with paragraph 1 of article 10, according to which article 10(2) was not to prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting enterprises; in the further alternative, they argued that it was justified under paragraph 2.

The Court agreed with the Government that the third sentence was applicable in the present case. What had to be determined was the scope of its application.

The insertion of the sentence in issue, at an advanced stage of the preparatory work on the Convention, was clearly due to technical or practical considerations such as the limited number of available frequencies and the major capital investment required for building transmitters.

It also reflected a political concern on the part of several states, namely that broadcasting should be the preserve of the state.

Since then, changed views and technical progress, particularly the appearance of cable transmission, had resulted in the abolition of state monopolies in many European countries and the establishment of private radio stations—often local ones—in addition to the public services.

Furthermore, national licensing systems were required not only for the orderly regulation of broadcasting enterprises at the national level but also in large part to give effect to international rules.

The object, purpose and scope of the third sentence of article 10, paragraph 1, had, however, to be considered in the context of the article as a whole and in particular in relation to the requirements of paragraph 2.

In so far as it amounted to an exception to the principle set forth in the first and second sentences, it was of limited scope. Its purpose was to make it clear that states were permitted to control by a licensing system the way in which broadcasting was organized in their territories, particularly in its technical aspects.

The Court noted that the Pizzo Groppera station as such admittedly came under Italian jurisdiction, but that the retransmission of its programmes by the Maur co-operative came under Swiss jurisdiction. The ban was fully consistent with the Swiss local radio system.

2 Paragraph 2 of article 10 A Prescribed by law

The applicants did not object to the fact that the 1983 Ordinance referred to the rules of international law, but they did not consider those sufficiently accessible or precise for a citizen to be able to adapt his behaviour to them.

The Swiss Government submitted that, on the contrary, the national and international rules in issue satisfied the criteria of precision and accessibility identified in the Convention institutions' case law.

In the Court's view, the scope of the concepts of foreseeability and accessibility depended to a considerable degree on the content of the instrument in issue, the field it was designed to cover and the number and status of those to whom it was addressed.

The relevant provisions of international telecommunications law were highly technical and complex and were primarily intended for specialists, who knew, from the information given in the official collection of federal statutes, how they could be obtained. Nor could it be said that the national or international rules in question were lacking in the necessary clarity and precision.

The Court found that the interference in issue pursued two aims that were fully compatible with the Convention: the protection of the territorial integrity of the telecommunications order and the protection of the rights of others.

According to the Court's settled case law, contracting states enjoyed a certain margin of appreciation in assessing whether and to what extent an interference was necessary, but that margin went hand in hand with European supervision covering both the legislation and the decisions applying it. When carrying out that supervision, the Court had to ascertain whether the measures taken at national level were justifiable in principle and proportionate; see, as the most recent authority, *Markt Intern Verlag GmbH v Klaus Beermann* (The Times November 23, 1989, series A, No 165, pp19-20, paragraph 33).

In order to verify that the interference was not excessive in the instant case, the requirement of protecting the international telecommunications order as well as the rights of others had to be weighed against the interest of the applicants and others in the retransmission of Groppera Radio's programmes by cable.

The Court reiterated, first, that once the 1983 Ordinance had come into force, most Swiss cable companies ceased retransmitting the programmes in question.

Moreover, the Swiss authorities never jammed the broadcasts from the Pizzo Groppera,

although they had made approaches to Italy and the International Telecommunications Union.

Third, the impugned ban was imposed on a company incorporated under Swiss law—the Maur cooperative—whose subscribers all lived on Swiss territory and continued to receive the programmes of several other stations.

Last, and above all, the procedure chosen could well have appeared necessary in order to prevent evasion of the law.

It was not a form of censorship directed against the content or tendencies of the programmes concerned, but a measure taken against a station which the authorities of the respondent state could reasonably hold to be in reality a Swiss station operating from the other side of the border in order to circumvent the statutory telecommunications system in force in Switzerland.

The national authorities accordingly did not in the instant case overstep the margin of appreciation left to them under the Convention.

Rami optimism as Walwyn continues fine strike rate

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

THE revival of Peter Walwyn's fortunes continued on Saturday when the victories of Drumhead at Kempton and of Hated at Haydock gave the trainer his seventh winner from 14 runners this season, a strike rate of 50 per cent.

"One swallow doesn't make a summer," said the man whom they used to call the tiger of Seven Barrows. "But we put in a lot of hard graft in the winter and things are certainly going well at present."

What an understatement. Drumhead and Steve Causton, who finished second, had been home by 2½ lengths in the Queen's Prize and David Oldrey's four-year-old will now attempt to defy a penalty in the Chester Cup.

There is no doubt the trainers have been receiving much more positive scientific help in the past year. Walwyn was quick to pay tribute to the work of Barry Allen, the blood-test expert, whose services have been used by

Martin Pipe, Charlie Brooks, Merrick Francis and others.

"We are now being told much more specifically when not to run a horse," said Walwyn. "The horses are tested in the morning and we get a fix report by 5pm. I was warned not to run Hated as he had a protein deficiency. But he had been working so well with Rami, and the other good horses, that we gave him some soya and took a chance."

However, the moment of truth for Walwyn will come when Rami, an impressive winner at Newmarket last autumn, lines up for the Greenham Stakes at Newbury.

Quaden Town, who finished sixth to Roland Gardens in 1978, was the last horse from the stable to take part in the 2,000 Guineas and hopes are now high that Rami will prove himself a worthy rival for Machiavellian on May 5.

"He's always worked like a good horse and I am very pleased with him," said the trainer. "But only Saturday will tell whether he's good enough to take his chance in the Guineas." Rami's in-

tended rivals include Rock City, Chidley, Welney, Book The Band and Montmorency.

Rami is owned by Hamdan Al-Maktoum and after Angus Gold had watched Willie Carson drive Elmsmum past the post half a length in front of Ray Cochrane on Raj Waki in the Bouspint Easter Stakes, the sheikh's racing manager said: "We won't decide whether Elmsmum will go for the Guineas until Mukdadam has run in the Craven and Rami at Newbury."

Dick Hern, who was delighted with Elmsmum, but Carson commented: "It's hard to know what to make of it. He's so busy, he's playing with the runner-up and with me as well." Doubt must be cast over the value of this form as Sam Wood, who is not considered to be in the top class at Warren Place, finished only three-quarters of a length away third.

Nevertheless, Guy Harwood is emphatic that Raj Waki ran a sound trial. "He came to win his race a furlong and a half off but then blew up. Sam Wood was outpaced,

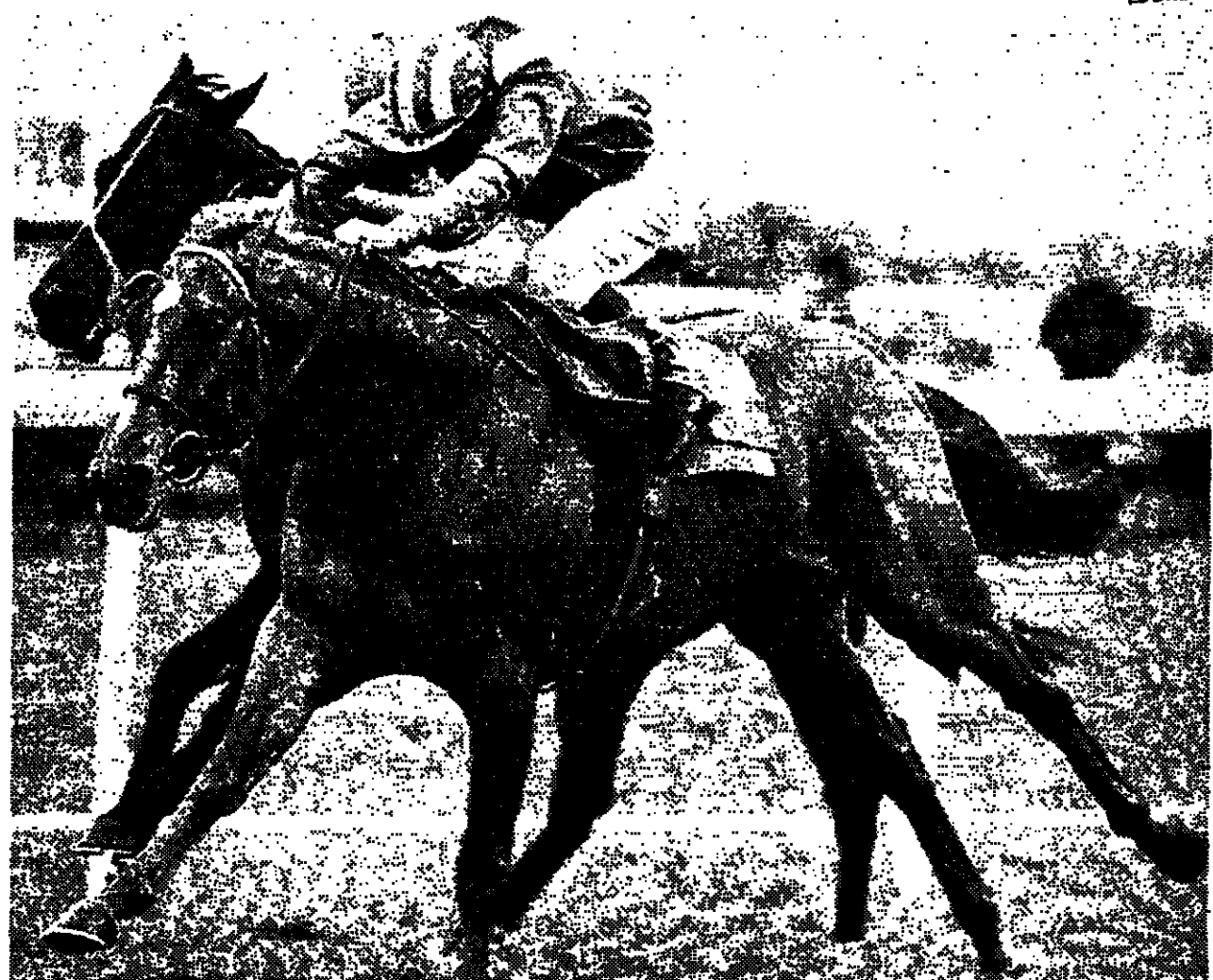
but then stayed on. What beats Raj Waki will win the Guineas."

Of Harwood's possibly Derby candidates, Duke Of Paducah goes for this week's Gerry Feilden Stakes at Newmarket, but Digression is being kept in reserve for either the Mecca-Dame Stakes at York or the Predominant Stakes at Goodwood.

The next, and most important, clue towards the Guineas will come at Newmarket on Saturday when Shavian, Mukdadam, Tirol and Champagne Gold are all under orders for the Craven.

Shavian, the easy winner of a minor race at Ascot last season, has been backed down from 16-1 to 8-1 in the past week to go one better than did Kris for Lord Howard de Walden when narrowly beaten by Tap On Wood in 1979.

"He missed some work about a month ago with a stiff problem," said Cecil, "so we're not sure whether he'll need the race on Thursday or not. But win or lose, I can see him proving a live Guineas horse."



Willie Carson pushes on Elmsmum to beat the partially-hidden Raj Waki in Kempton's Bouspint Easter Stakes

Desert Orchid seeks to join exclusive club

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

DESERT ORCHID seeks election to an exclusive stablehand's club at Fairyhouse today. His target is the Jameson Irish Gold Cup and in the 66 years since the institution of the Chesham Gold Cup only two horses, Arkle and Prince Regent, have managed to land the Gold Cup-Irish National double.

The latest going is good to firm and, as a precaution, David Elsworth was last night inspecting the Fairyhouse course before allowing Desert Orchid to compete.

The attempt of Desert Orchid to repeat last year's success in the Gold Cup failed when he was beaten into third place by the 100-1 outsider Norton's Coin, but he will be far better suited by the Fairyhouse track, where they will be racing right in the almost certain absence of the champion Irish chaser Carville's Hill. The vast majority of the runners will have to carry poundage in excess of 12 stone and the going is expected to be heavy rather than left-handed.

Even with top weight of 12 stone the grey is still treated, more especially in the almost certain absence of the champion Irish chaser Carville's Hill. The vast majority of the runners will have to carry poundage in excess of 12 stone and the going is expected to be heavy rather than left-handed.

Long handling in weight order: 12-10 Desert Orchid, 5-1 Carville's Hill, 7-1 Bold Flyer, 12-1 Have A Barry, 10-1 And Joe, 20-1 Barry Burnet, 10-1 Laidlaw, 20-1 others.

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will be dominated by a handful of the runners.

The main opposition to Desert Orchid is likely to come from Bold Flyer and Have A Barry.

Bold Flyer, the mount of Standish Colles's daughter Sarah, has been trained by Jim Draper with today's race in mind. Last autumn, Miss Colles was aboard Bold Flyer when he gave an immaculate display of front-running to lead all the way in the valuable Digital Gateway Plate.

However, Draper admits that if Desert Orchid is at his best, he would certainly give the weight to Bold Flyer, who lacks experience and whose stamina is in question.

Desert Orchid finished third to Maid Of Money in last year's race when carrying 11st 8lb. With 20lb less to carry today, he must have an excellent every-day chance. As Joe is an experienced handcappper, whose trainer Paddy Mullins has such a remarkable record in big handicaps that anything he runs has to be respected.

However, there is no reason to believe that there is a chance in this field who can peg back Desert Orchid.

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Selections

By Mandarin

2.30 Littleton, 3.30 Royal Sting, 3.30 Dancing Ballerina, 4.0 Rambling Echo, 4.30 The Oil Baron, 5.0 Milton Bryan.

Going: good to firm

2.30 HOLIDAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (21,772: 2m) (14 runners)

1-88 MANDALAY 282 Mm P Tenthredine 5-10-0 Long Tenthredine (7)

2-88 GINGER WINGS 21 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)

3-441 TAD ALONG 18 (P) Mm A Moore 5-11-0 G Tenthredine (7)

4-494 HAPPY HOLIDAY 27 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)

5-494 HAPPY HOLIDAY 27 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)

6-494 HAPPY HOLIDAY 27 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)

7-494 HAPPY HOLIDAY 27 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)

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41-494 HAPPY HOLIDAY 27 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)

42-494 HAPPY HOLIDAY 27 Mm A Moore 5-10-0 G Tenthredine (7)</

Sharp N' Early to speed home

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

AT THE start of a week that sees him saddle-fancied runners for the Craven Stakes (Trot) at Newmarket and the Greenham Stakes (Rock City) at Newbury, Richard Hannan, the successful East Eversley trainer, is looking to Sharp N' Early to give the stable confidence by winning the Quail Stakes at Kempton Park today.

Two years ago, Sharp N' Early lived up to his name by making a winning racecourse debut on today's track at the start of a season that was destined to see him also win the coveted Gimcrack Stakes at York, setting a new track record in the process.

Last season, he rather lost his way possibly because five

of his seven races were over seven furlongs or a mile, distances arguably beyond a colt with his breeding by Windjammer.

Certainly his best performances as a three-year-old were when he was racing over six furlongs, which is the distance of today's race.

On the first occasion he finished sixth in the July Cup at Newmarket, beaten less than six lengths and later he finished third in the Ebor at Doncaster.

Discussing Sharp N' Early yesterday, Hannan said that he has come to the conclusion that he is a sprinter pure and simple, and he is being trained accordingly. He also said that his preparation for today's race has gone so well that he is

optimistic about a successful outcome even though horses of the calibre of Shamrock Corner, In-Excess, and Rebellion are among his opponents.

Hannan has a good line on the last two through Orisio and Tirok. I also happen to prefer an older horse. Like Sharp N' Early at this stage of the season, and he is my nap.

Queens Tour has made the trip from Mel Brittain's Yorkshire yard to attempt to win the Rosebery Handicap a second time and with considerably less weight on his back compared with when he beat Cadeo Crown, another runner this afternoon, by two lengths last spring.

In this instance, though, I still prefer Rebellion and Black Over this 10-furlong trip

Biennial could have the edge for it was over this distance that he won the Ebor Handicap at Goodwood.

As the winner of his first three races last season, Biennial is clearly a horse who comes to hand easily. He is also an active sort. Today, Tony Clark, who rode him to win twice last year, stands in for Khalid Abdulla's retained jockey Pat Eddery, whose presence is required at Nottingham for Now Listen in the Little John Stakes and Sangamore in the Cumber Graduation Stakes.

Well that should go, I believe they both must be beaten by My Sister Ellen (3.45) and Tyburn Tree (4.45). Henry Cecil's representatives with Steve Causton in the saddle.

My Sister Ellen's recent

homework with Chimes Of Freedom and Rahsan has indicated that the talented Now Listen will have a fight on his hands attempting to give her 11lb while Tyburn Tree, an easy winner of his only race at Newbury as a two-year-old, could prove too sharp for Sangamore.

At Warwick, Willie Ryan, Causton's dependable deputy at Warren Place, is given a good chance of winning the Marton Graduation Stakes on Glen Kate.

Carson suspended

Willie Carson was yesterday banned for two days (April 24 and 25) for his riding of the locally-trained Optimist, a chance mount in the Premio Ambrusiano at San Siro, Milan. Optimist finished first but was placed second, and the race awarded to Tisserand.

Selections

By Mandarin

2.10 Eilebanna.
2.40 Monrovia Boy.
3.10 SHARP N' EARLY (nap).
3.40 Black Monday.
4.15 Hazy's Coming.
4.45 Smokey Native.
5.15 Go Dutch.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.10 Maria Doria.
2.40 Rosette Lodge.
3.10 In Excess.
3.40 Black Monday.
4.15 Hazy's Coming.
4.45 Time Guardian.
5.15 Hatfield.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (10) 0-0022 GOOD TIMES 74 (20/1) (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

Going: good

2.10 REDSHANK MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,375; 5f) (12 runners)

101 (9) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 102 (10) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 103 (11) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 104 (12) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 105 (13) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 106 (14) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 107 (15) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 108 (16) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 109 (17) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 110 (18) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 111 (19) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 112 (20) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox.

Draw: 51-81, low numbers best

2.40 PREMIER MARKETS HANDICAP (£3,824; 1m 11f) (20 runners)

201 (6) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 202 (7) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 203 (8) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 204 (9) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 205 (10) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 206 (11) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 207 (12) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 208 (13) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 209 (14) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 210 (15) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 211 (16) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 212 (17) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 213 (18) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 214 (19) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox. 215 (20) AL-KHAWAZA (C) (Bred by J. P. Smeaton) 5-11. R. Fox.

FORM FOCUS

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Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 One For The Pot.
2.45 Minimize.
3.15 Kamakaze Girl.
3.45 King.
4.15 King.
4.45 Super One.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 One For The Pot.
2.45 Minimize.
3.15 Kamakaze Girl.
3.45 King.
4.15 King.
4.45 Super One.

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TRAINERS

Winners Runners Percent

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Smith avoids any predictions

By Louise Taylor

DRAWING heavily on his post-match cigar, Jim Smith mused on the vagaries of the second division promotion race. In beating Wolverhampton Wanderers, his Newcastle United team may have put itself within hailing distance of an automatic promotion place, but he said: "There are an awful lot of ifs between now and the end of May, everything could still go up in smoke for us."

If Smith's players do the expected and record a sixth successive win at home, to Stoke City, the bottom club, this afternoon, they could be occupying one of the two coveted direct entrances to the first division by tea-time. That will depend on the result from Eland Road, where York's match of the season sees Leeds United entertain Sheffield United.

Long regarded as a private affair intended to decide the destiny of the second division title, the fixture has been spiced by the fact that level on 75 points — only three ahead of Newcastle — the pair are no longer confident of joining the League's elite by strolling through the front door.

Marshallled by those arch-pragmatists, Howard Wilkinson and Dave Bassett, who are close friends and live a few hundred yards apart in Sheffield, both clubs rely on a

utilitarian mix of the long ball and offside trap, bolstered by fanatical support, for their success.

The difference is that while Wilkinson has invested millions in Leeds's playing personnel, Bassett has assembled his so-called "all-sorts" for next to nothing. One man with a point to prove will be Deane, Sheffield's leading scorer, who was rejected by Leeds as a teenager.

Similarly, Blackburn Rovers, fifth, and Swindon Town, fourth, who meet at Ewood Park this afternoon, are full of players acquired at

the footballing equivalent of discount clearance sales, but, unlike Leeds and Sheffield, they keep purist principles intact by eschewing the percentage game. They might still make the top two places but the pair are more likely to have to fight for the right to squeeze into the first division through the tradesman's entrance — the play-offs.

Nevertheless, with West Ham United, home to Ipswich Town tomorrow, undergoing a renaissance under Billy Bonds, Oldham Athletic, away at Port Vale today, having three games in hand, and Wolves, who visit Hull

City, not yet out of it, neither will want to concede ground. Sunderland wobbled with a 1-0 defeat at home to Hull on Saturday, and unless they succeed at Oxford United, the Roker Park team could lose its place inside the charmed circle of the top six.

What happens between now and the end of the season, will largely be determined by injuries — Newcastle are down to their last 11 fit professionals — the form of goalkeepers like Mick Quinn, Ritchie, Gabbiadini and Bull, at Newcastle, Oldham, Sunderland and Wolves respectively, but above all by whose nerve

proves the strongest.

This could be decided by the experienced former internationalists like Strachan, at Leeds, Bracewell, at Sunderland, and Aitken, at Newcastle, all players with the ability to dictate games by pulling the midfield strings.

The injury-punctuated season experienced by Hurlock, Millwall's driving force, took its toll on Saturday when the Londoners' two-season stay in the first division was ended with defeat at Derby County. As Millwall go through the motions at home to Tottenham Hotspur, Luton Town travel to Nottingham Forest today knowing that defeat is likely to leave them contemplating trips to Watford and West Bromwich next season.

Crystal Palace can erase any lingering worries about relegation by winning a League match at Chelsea for the first time, and Manchester City can achieve the same end by doing likewise at Norwich City.

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, insisted that, even if the FA Cup finalists secure their League safety, his players will not "switch it on and off". He said: "My team is not good enough for that, there is only one way we can play — and that is flat out."

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

First division

Chelsea v Crystal Palace

Chelsea could give a debut to Stuart, aged 19, a graduate of the FA's National football school at Luton, with McAlester (ankle) and Burnstead (shoulder) highly doubtful. Mathew, captain of the youth team last year, could also start. Palace are without Thorn (ankle) so Pemberton moves to central defence, and Hedman is introduced at right back.

Coventry v QPR

Craig Middleton is poised for his full debut for Coventry, who are almost certainly without Gynn (hamstring), Livingston (ankle), Billing (stomach), Kildine (ankle) and Drinkall (hamstring). QPR could prefer Clarke to Falco in attack.

Everton v Derby

Everton are likely to be unchanged. Derby are expected to field the side which beat Millwall on Saturday.

Millwall v Tottenham

Millwall name an 18-man squad. Tottenham are likely to start with the team which beat Coventry on Saturday.

Norwich v Man City

Norwich may prefer Goss to Fox in the midfield. Brighton and Hove Albion could start City at the expense of Lata and Albert.

Not'm Forest v Luton

Forest are expected to be unchanged. Basumont could be recalled to the Luton defence after a five-month absence through injury. Johnson is added to the squad.

Second division

Leeds v Sheff Utd

Leeds may omit Vardi and Haddock in order to introduce Devlin and Speed. Begin and Devlin face late fitness tests. Wood is doubtful for Sheffield; Whitehouse stands by.

Newcastle v Stoke

Gallagher (shin) faces a late fitness test for Newcastle.

Oxford v Sunderland

Philips and Nogen could replace Penney and Simpson for Oxford. Pascoe and Bennett face late fitness tests for Sunderland. Gates and Heathcote are poised to deputise.

Wolves slip out of chasing pack

FOUR of the most predatory forwards outside the first division provided uncharacteristic coy at Molineux on Saturday, so much so that the game's only goal was scored by Kevin Scott, the Newcastle United defender.

He met Kevin Brock's deep kick with a firm, looping, far-post header, and Mick Quinn, Newcastle only three points adrift of both Leeds United and Sheffield United at the top.

With Steve Bull and Andy Mutch, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Mick Quinn, their Newcastle counterparts, in muted mood — the quartet boast almost 100 goals between them this season — the goal represented one of a handful of clear-cut chances.

The hosts spurred the best after only five minutes. Scott stumbled, Bull slipped in, and Burridge could only parry the centre forward's shot as far as Cook, who somehow missed

Louise Taylor reviews the second division

with the goal at his mercy. As Graham Turner, the Wolves manager, said: "It was an incredible miss which possibly cost us the game."

The truth is that Wolves, now down in eighth position, were never really in it. For a team pursuing promotion, their first goal was supposed to say the least. But to give Turner his due, he had the honesty to concede: "We were just chasing the game and launching long balls forward. We never looked like pulling ourselves out of position."

Bull was kept in his place to such an extent that the Newcastle manager, Jim Smith, quipped afterward: "Steve who?" Smith had Kristensen, his Danish international defender, to thank for an intelligent marking job on the England World Cup contender, who had dissected Newcastle with three goals in Wolves' 4-1 win at St

James' Park on New Year's Day

Indeed, with Kristensen and Scott looking comfortable on the ball at the back, and Aitken enjoying one of his more dynamic games in the middle, the idea of Wolves becoming the first team to rise from the fourth to the first divisions in successive seasons was made to look little more than a statistician's fantasy.

Even if the team was stronger, the ground — two sides of which are shut for safety purposes — and the pitch, which is at such a distance from the main stand, Wolves should feel obliged to issue complimentary binoculars with season tickets, is hardly first division material.

There is no question that Sunderland possess a venue of quality in Roker Park, but do they have the players? A scrappy 1-0 home defeat against relegation-threatened Hull City not only raised serious doubts on Weirside, but proved the cue for renewed optimism in the East

End of London. West Ham United's 1-1 draw with Barnsley leaves Billy Bonds' team just one point adrift of Sunderland, occupants of the sixth and final play-off position.

Above them Sheffield United, Swindon Town and Blackburn Rovers held their ground with wins at home to Oxford United, at home to Watford, and away at Bradford City respectively. Sheffield United, Yorkshire United, Leeds and Sheffield, not to mention the producers of the BBC television series about the latter, must be wondering whether Newcastle are poised to declare themselves as the dark horses of this year's race by slipping up on the blind side and stealing one of the two automatic promotion positions.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: M. Kendall; T. Bennett (sub: P. McDougall); A. Thompson, M. Venus, P. Cook (sub: P. Jones); G. Bellamy, T. Stone, N. Vaughan, S. Jones, J. Holloway, C. Smith, D. White, C. Saunders, P. Nixon (sub: P. Purnell). NEWCASTLE UNITED: J. Burridge; K. Scott, M. Stimson, R. Atkin, J. Anderson, R. Hanson, J. Harrison, M. Quinn, M. McInnes, S. Kristensen. Referee: J. Worral.

Guessing game is soon over

By Roddy Forsyth

THE identity of the contestants for the Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park on May 12 was not long in doubt on Saturday. At Tynecastle, Aberdeen swept past an unusually ineffective Dundee United, and opened the scoring in 11 minutes when Brian Irvine converted a rebound from Main.

The Tayside team inflicted wounds upon itself with own goals by Paatelainen and Van der Horst. Before Gillespie completed an emphatic victory with a decisive shot five minutes from full time.

At Hampden Park, meanwhile, Celtic took an early lead against Clydebank when Gallagher's mistake permitted Walker to shoot home but the Dundee struggled to subdue their first division opponents and it was not until the final minutes that Walker scored again to secure Celtic's advance.

Rangers moved to within a point of their second successive promotion division title, and their fourth championship, when they beat Motherwell at Broomfield, although Cusack scored for the visitors before Steven and Johnston scored a 2-1 victory.

At the outset of the table, Dundee's fine form came to an end against St Mirren. Campbell scored in the first minute for Dundee but Dods hit the post with a penalty and St Mirren went on to capitalize with goals from Stewart and Martin.

If Dunfermline had beaten Heart of Midlothian at East End Park, Dundee would have been relegated, but a McPherson goal for the Edinburgh team was the only score of the match.

Wales are to start playing internationals at Under-21 level and have arranged a match against Poland at Merthyr on May 19.



Baddeley fosters new belief

From Richard Eaton, Moscow

STEVE Baddeley's unexpected triumph in the European championships has helped to bring a new mood of optimism into English badminton. Baddeley, the former Commonwealth champion who was seeded fourth, took away the title from Darren Hall, his colleague, with an 11-15, 15-3, 15-7 win on Saturday night in a wonderful climax to a series of good singles performances by the England squad.

Baddeley reversed the result of the national final in this first European final between two Englishmen because he managed to prevent Hall from winning the majority of the net and because he was supremely alert to the psychologically crucial phases of the match, particularly at the start of this game.

It is this sort of commitment and self-belief that showed signs

of returning to the whole squad and which prompted an outspoken boost from Clive Cingello, the acting manager since the announcement a week ago that Paul Whelan would quit at the end of the month.

"This can be the start of the road back," Cingello said, referring to the decline in results since he left as the full-time manager five years ago. "We can win the European team title in Glasgow next time."

That, however, will depend upon much-improved doubles results and England lifting their all-round standard nearer to that of Denmark, who won five out of six possible gold medals, thus equalling the record set by England in 1984 at Preston.

England would have had gold in the two singles for the first time had not a mixture of mild panic and appalling luck denied Fiona Smith the women's title.

Smith, the national champion, had seven match points to win in straight games against Pernille Nedergaard, the top seed, and after missing them she retired because of a painful ankle she had sprained at 9-9 in the second game. The score was 5-11, 12-11, 4-0 retired.

Smith should recover from the injury in a couple of weeks and so be fit for the Thomas and Uber Cup finals in Japan, starting next month. How long any mental scars stay with her remains to be seen.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Steve S. Baddeley (Eng) to Darren Hall (Eng) 11-15, 15-3, 15-7. Men's doubles: David H. Bennett (Eng) and Paul Whelan (Eng) to M. Gundersen (Nor) and T. Kihlstrom (Swe) 15-10, 15-12. Women's singles: Fiona Smith (Eng) to P. Nedergaard (Den) 9-9, 12-11, 4-0 retired. Women's doubles: Fiona Smith (Eng) and E. V. Dijk (Neth) 15-10, 15-12. Mixed doubles: Paul H. Anderson (Eng) and M. Gundersen (Nor) to E. V. Dijk (Neth) and M. Bengtsson (Swe) 15-7, 15-8.

Bristol Rovers closing on promotion

BRISTOL Rovers' 2-0 victory over Rotherham United on Saturday was their twentieth game without defeat. It took them a step closer to automatic promotion and opened a five-point advantage over the third-placed team, Tranmere Rovers.

All this, and a place in the Leyland Cup final at Wembley next month, has been achieved by a club which sold its two leading players, Martin and Penrice, halfway through the season, and which does not contain a single member of the third division representative team announced by the Professional Footballers' Association two weeks ago.

Rotherham, on the other hand, provided two members of the team, Williamson and Goodwin, with their recent decline that

Keith Blackmore reviews the third and fourth divisions

Williamson has been dropped, having scored only once from anywhere other than the penalty spot since early November. Rovers place no such reliance on individuals. Gerry Francis, their manager, has devised a system which makes the most of limited resources and provides a remarkable degree of consistency.

They have only once conceded three goals this season — to Rotherham, in January — and, before drawing 1-1 with Huddersfield Town last week, had won each of their previous seven games by a 2-1 margin. That would have been the

score on Saturday, too, if Rotherham had taken the only chance which came their way.

After a famous first half, Francis moved his tall forwards, McClean and White, away from the posts at set pieces, and was rewarded with a goal four minutes after half-time.

McClean, a real head-hollower's corner down to McEw, who poked home his nineteenth goal of the season from four yards.

Jones extended the lead five minutes later, placing the ball up 25 yards from goal and curling an excellent shot into the top right corner. Rotherham were unable to respond, although Goater should have scored following a corner 20 minutes later.

Bristol City, the leaders of the division, drew 2-2 with Preston

North End. They still lead Rovers by four points yet have conceded a goal, and are third after drawing with Bolton Wanderers.

Exeter City kept their hold on the leadership of the fourth division by beating Torquay United 2-0. Torquay, who had been second, lost to a head-hollower's corner down to McEw, who poked home his nineteenth goal of the season from four yards.

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Bristol City, the leaders of the division, drew 2-2 with Preston

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

NEWPORT: 10-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 20-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 30-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 40-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 50-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 60-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 70-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 80-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 90-mile road race: Marc 1, 5; 100-mile road race: Marc 1, 5.

CYCLING

NORTHERN IRELAND MILK RACE: Fourth stage (12-mile individual time trial): 1. S. W. 2. S. W. 3. S. W. 4. S. W. 5. S. W. 6. S. W. 7. S. W. 8. S. W. 9. S. W. 10. S. W. 11. S. W. 12. S. W. 13. S. W. 14. S. W. 15. S. W. 16. S. W. 17. S. W. 18. S. W. 19. S. W. 20. S. W. 21. S. W. 22. S. W. 23. S. W. 24. S. W. 25. S. W. 26. S. W. 27. S. W. 28. S. W. 29. S. W. 30. S. W. 31. S. W. 32. S. W. 33. S. W. 34. S. W. 35. S. W. 36. S. W. 37. S. W. 38. S. W. 39. S. W. 40. S. W. 41. S. W. 42. S. W. 43. S. W. 44. S. W. 45. S. W. 46. S. W. 47. S. W. 48. S. W. 49. S. W. 50. S. W. 51. S. W. 52. S. W. 53. S. W. 54. S. W. 55. S. W. 56. S. W. 57. S. W. 58. S. W. 59. S. W. 60. S. W. 61. S. W. 62. S. W. 63. S. W. 64. S. W. 65. S. W. 66. S. W. 67. S. W. 68. S. W. 69. S. W. 70. S. W. 71. S. W. 72. S. W. 73. S. W. 74. S. W. 75. S. W. 76. S. W. 77. S. W. 78. S. W. 79. S. W. 80. S. W. 81. S. W. 82. S. W. 83. S. W. 84. S. W. 85. S. W. 86. S. W. 87. S. W. 88. S. W. 89. S. W. 90. S. W. 91. S. W. 92. S. W. 93. S. W. 94. 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Fireball cricket under a blue Elysian sky

opposite number, Clive Lloyd, have had discussions before and during the tour and are happy both with attitudes on the pitch and between the players off it. Stewart denies that spectators are concerned with over-rate, though this is contrary to evidence in previous matches. What seems generally accepted, and expected, by players and public is that losing gracefully is not any more one of the options.

One of the best and worst days of my life has just passed. I have experienced an exquisite, lingering sunset here in the Lewards Islands, a liquid fireball sinking behind St Kitts and Nevis, and illuminating a cloud formation as huge and unmovable as the Himalayas and realizing that I have lived a part of my life believing in now no longer exists.

ANTHONY PHELPS

Behind the leader a diminutive Welsh figure looms large

clearly enough his powers of recovery.

Only at the 17th (he had started at the 10th) did his *short game let him down*. He hit his second over the green on to a dirt road and, having nowhere suitable to drop, he played it where it lay. He was short with his first chip and, though his second gave him a six-foot putt for par, he could not, for once, make it.

He had holed from 15 feet and eight feet for birdies at the 10th and 12th respectively and chipped and putted for a four at the long 16th into the wind. The 18th lay ahead. He could not quite repeat his

143: J Hoggarty (Z), 72; T1 A Charnley (Z), 76;
70: P Mitchell (Z), 71; 72: M Larsson (Swe), 76;
67: C Rocca (No), 73; 72: M Rice, 72; 71: S
Torranova, 70; 73: M Pinerio (Esp), 72; 71: J
Van De Velde (Fr), 74, 68.
144: M Miller, 68; 75: G Ralph, 75; 69: S
Richardson, 73; 71: J Daviel (Scl), 73; 71:
M Mancenza, 71; 73: G L'Esperance (Scl), 73;
73: P Brown (Z), 75; 69: A Murray, 72;
J Berardi (Arg), 71; 73: D Williams, 73; 71:
M Parsson (Swe), 70, 74.
145: M Pandey (Fr), 71, 74; C O'Connor
jun (Iro), 73; 72: F Martin (Fr), 73; 72: C
Cookson (US), 72; 73: J1 Moucha (Fr), 70,
75.
146: J Heggstad (Swe), 75; 71:
J1 Heggstad (Scl), 75; 73: G L'Esperance (Scl), 73;
P Carriga, 73; 73: G Krause, 73; 73: J
Rutledge (Can), 73; 73: M Moreno (Scl),
71; 75: C Melman, 73; 73: P Hedstrom
(Swe), 71; 75: D James, 74; 70: A Braghi
ro, 74; 72: G Brand, 74; 72: M Moulden,

There is concern that in forthcoming years a number of players, including Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, Johnny Miller, Lanny Wadkins and Tom Watson, may all decide to be captain. Floyd discussed the matter with the PGA during the Masters and he unhesitatingly supported Stockton.

"It is a thrill and an honour to be captain of the team," I said. "I look forward to bonding together 12 men for a common cause. It is important that I am familiar with their personalities as well as their playing strengths and weaknesses. I will have the five-balls each of the last three matches, and I need to address that problem."

"I must have the team being a good example of a unified force. I'll do anything to make sure we win and I'm grateful to have that opportunity. This is the crown jewel in the game."

Stockton born in San Bernardino, California, broke into the back at the age of 14. He turned professional in 1964 and he won 11 times on the US Tour which included the US PGA Championship in 1971 and the Ryder Cup matches and he won 3½ points from a possible five. Coincidentally, his first singles match was against Bernard Gallacher in 1964. He was captain of Tony Jacklin as the European captain. Stockton and Gallacher halved.

BY Chris Smart

RICKY Willison, the English international from Ealing, won the Duncan Puter invitation tournament at Rossmore and carried himself a place in the record books.

In **gale-force** conditions Willison recorded a 72-hole total of 311 — 31 over par and the lowest score since the event began in 1959.

In the two rounds yesterday, only five players in the 56-strong field broke 80. "It was quite sad in many ways because the weather was so much more than a nuisance," Willison said.

LEADING FINAL SCORES: 311: R Willison (Ealing), 71, 81, 72; 315: M Mearns (Dunmurry), 71, 84; 316: J Peters (Southdown), 73, 73, 84; 317: S Rogers (St Melryd), 60, 77, 81; 318: J O'Connell (Dunmurry), 73, 82; A Wilson (Ealing), 73, 72, 81; 319: G Houston (Gairloch), 80, 80, 79; 320: J O'Connell (Dunmurry), 73, 82; A Johnson (Cardiff), 76, 74, 83; 322: G. McEneaney (Bristol and Clinton), 75, 83, 84, 76.

● DUBLIN: Play was halted by atrocious weather during the West of Ireland amateur championship at Rossmore point, Sligo, yesterday.

Special correspondents write:

Daren Clarke, the favourite, made a surprise 2 and 1 first-round exit against Jerry

RESULTS: Second round: N Kelly to 2 McDermott, 1 Conway, 1 Walker to A Hayes, 1 O'Connell, 1 O'Connell, 1 O'Connell, 1 Piers to B 13, 13, 13; 3: J Parnigan to S Rooney, 3 and 2; 2: P Power to S Hamill, 1; 1: J O'Connell to P O'Brien, 2 and 1.



By Ivo Tennant

FENNER'S (*Cambridge University won toss*): Northamptonshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 193 runs ahead. *Northamptonshire*: IT GOES without saying that it was a two-sweater day — it always seems to be for cricket at Fenner's in April — and in all other respects we were a world away from the 19th century, utterly reassuring it all was, and predictable in that a visiting batsman scored the first century of the season.

Fenberthy is, as his name would suggest, a Constitution one of few to play first-class cricket. He is also an all-rounder of considerable potential, as Northamptonshire are well aware. Having made his century in his 11th career, he then took three cheap wickets

ROBIN Catchlove and **Richard Elliott**, of the Maidstone club, were surprise winners of this year's Devizes to Westminster marathon. They beat the favourites, **Tim Phillips** and **Simon Dark**, of Worcester, by nearly 10 minutes.

Their time of 17hr 48min 30sec was slower than expected but was largely due to the very cold conditions at night and the lack of flow on the Thames. Because of these factors, many crews retired.

First women were **Tamsin Phipps** and **Karin Wilkinson**, of the Reading and Marlow club.

CITY of Leeds and Wigan Wasp retained their dominance of men's and women's swimming at the Great Britain TSB club championships at the weekend, but the result saw Portsmouth Northsea emerge as the best overall team.

While Leeds men, with 242 points, and Wigan's women, with 212, retained their titles, Portsmouth provided the severest challenge to both.

The outstanding swim of the

SO MUCH for curfews. Alan Cunningham, the oldest man on court (he was not saying how old), broke the 12m bedtime deadline for Kingston's players and still scooped all the honours as he went as his team established themselves not only as the best at the NEC in Birmingham on Saturday, but the finest ever in England.

Kingston's 87-82 victory over Sunderland in the final of the Carlsberg championship play-offs brought the club its fifth trophy of a domestic season in which it also won the Carlsberg League, the NatWest Trophy, the

IN THOSE long-gone days when large segments of the army wore a colourless pink to distinguish them as British, the officers and gentlemen who worked for the Raj in India and could not get home for the salmon and trout season had a superb alternative: the golden mahseer.

Deep into the night, the fish were being fed in the upper reaches of the Ganges were famed for the mahseer. In comparison with these superb sporting fish, salmon almost surrendered. One German fisherman, it is said, was once drowned by a mahseer, and somehow swam out of the water with his wrist and one finger dragged under.

It is the majestic and, since 1947, near-forgotten, mahseer that the Norfolk angler, John Bailey, and his friend, Paul Boote, are seeking in *Casting for Gold on 17V* (Hutchinson, 10.35p). The book covers a day's fishing on the Test, this is "fishing with a real difference" ... an extraordinary, six-week adventure that began with brown trout in Kashmir and ended with legendary gold from the Ganges.

Bailey, in his thirties, quit his job as a schoolteacher a year ago to be an author (of angling



TODAY: *Grandstand:* Dominated by world snooker and ice hockey from Edinburgh – Murrayfield Racers v Fife Flyers (BBC1, 1.35).

TOMORROW: Cricket: The curtain comes down on a fiery Caribbean tour: will England save the series? (Sky One, 3pm).

WEDNESDAY: *The Match:* Arsenal v Liverpool: lacks the drama of their final match last season but Liverpool will seek to erase memories of their televised FA Cup semi-final defeat (ITV, 8pm).

THURSDAY: Snooker: The Crucible is down to its last 16 players for the 25-frame matches for quarter-final places (BBC2, 10.30am, 1.35pm, 4pm and 11.20pm).

FRIDAY: Football: *United:* Dave "Bleeper" Bassett keeps Sheffield United heading towards promotion while the chairman talks of selling the club (BBC2, 8.30pm).

SATURDAY: Golf: The Madrid Open from Puerto de Hierro with José María Olazábal on home grounds (Eurosport, 2pm).

SUNDAY: The Marathon: Feel the pain from your armchair as thousands run for fun and charity (BBC1, 9.10am; Eurosport, 9.30am).

Snow win secures cup

BRITAIN beat Australia 3-0 to retain the Bathurst Cup, the leading amateur team event they have held since 1963, but the Men's British amateur champion, found Christopher Sievers a tougher proposition.

The 21-year-old had led by two sets to one before Male's win.

Male and Snow found Happell and Sievers difficult to coach in the doubles final but they were an entertaining struggle.

RESULTS: Britain vs Australia, 3-0 (British Men's 3-0, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; British Women's 5-4, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; British Mixed 5-4, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Sievers, 5-4, 6-0, 6-2, 6-4).

Results, page 31

